

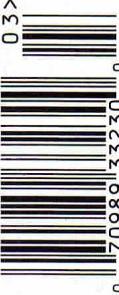
UNBREAKABLE • CHARLIE'S ANGELS • MARCH MADNESS

MAD

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MALCOLM
IN THE
MIDDLE!

UNITED STATES

#403 MARCH 2001 \$2.99 CHEAP!



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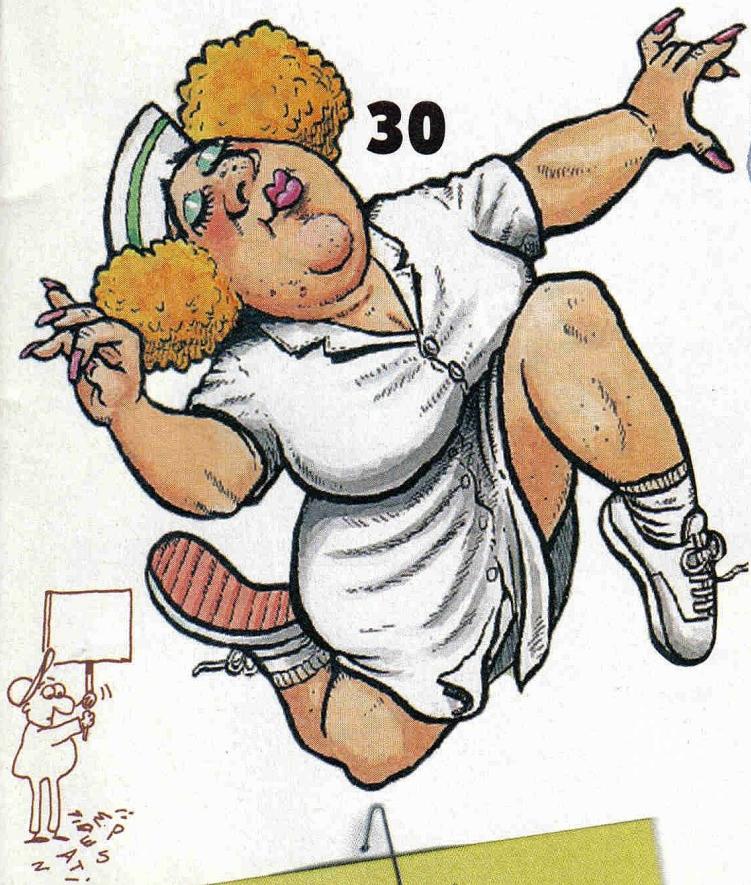
PARADA

MAD

MARCH 2001

NUMBER 403

30



MAD

Editor's Note

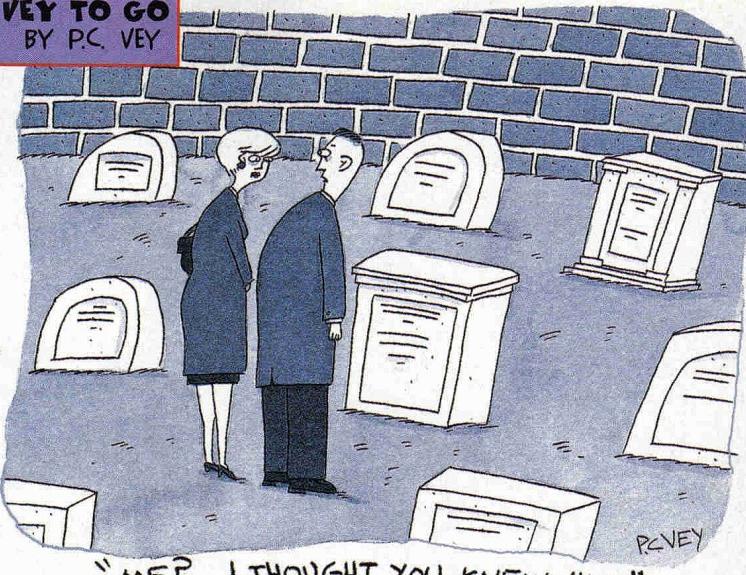
Dear MAD Reader:

As you know, MAD has long been an innovator in the magazine industry and now, beginning with this very issue you hold in your hands, we offer two exciting new concepts that are sure to revolutionize the magazine business: color and advertising. That's right, for the first time in history, a major publication will offer both full-color editorial pages and advertisements from important international companies. We are sure it's only a matter of time before other publications will do what they've always done — follow our bold lead and offer their own color pages and advertisements. But you, dear reader, will be able to tell your friends that you saw MAD do it first!

Onward to a new era in publishing!
MAD-ly,
The Editors

VEY TO GO

BY P.C. VEY



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1996

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Honor of Paula Jones

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His Wallet at the Hotel

1989
CIA Foils Plans of Chinese
Spies to Steal "The
Clapper" Technology

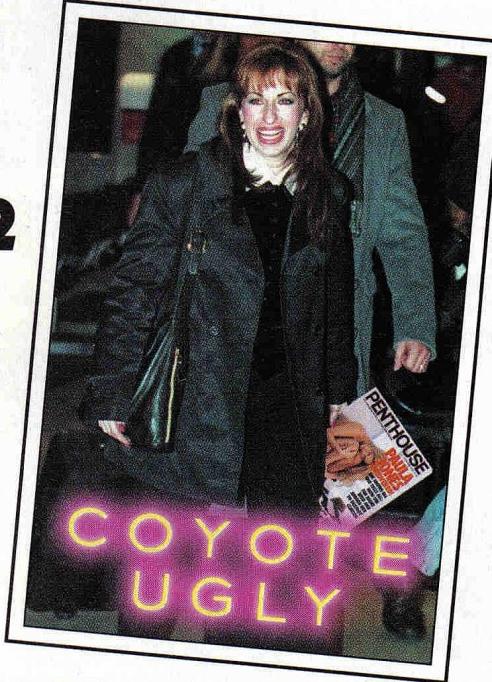
THIS MONTH IN HISTORY						
MARCH						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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1997

IRS Disallows
Dallas Cowboys
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"Drawn Out Dramas" Various Places
by Sergio Aragones Around the Magazine

*"Be wary of anyone
who gives you advice
that begins with,
'Be wary of....!'"*

FRONT COVER ARTIST: ROBERTO PARADA



DEPARTMENT
LETTERS • AND • TOMATOES



MORON MAIL — THE RETURN

I noticed that you have some guy named "Ed" whose job is to reply to reader mail in your letters department. I was thinking that since my name is also Ed, that I could someday apply for the position of responding to numbskull letters. Please let me know if this is possible.

Ed Paz, Greendale, WI

Eddie — In your numbskull letter, when you presume you could respond to numbskull letters just because your name is Ed, you were wrong. —Ed.

Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™

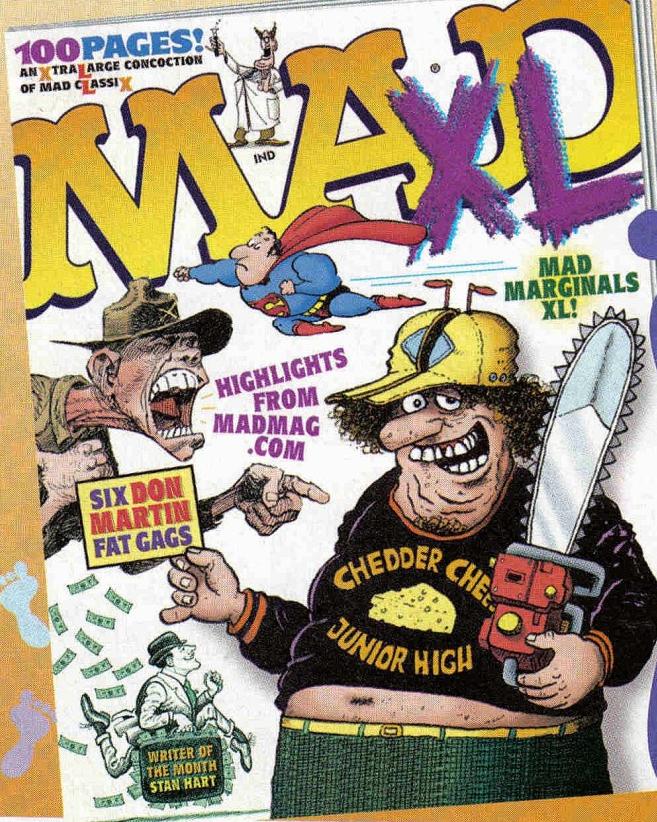
I have been a reader of MAD for about 2½ years and I have a dumb wish for *The Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™*. I wish that Antonio Prohias would make a "Spy Vs. Spy Vs. Spy" because I enjoy them.

Mark Hudson, Cedar Rapids, IA

Marcus — It's rare that we at *The Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™* receive a letter as dumb as yours. Have Antonio Prohias create a "Spy Vs. Spy Vs. Spy"? As even a casual MAD reader would know, Antonio Prohias died two years ago (See Letters Page #371). He's dead, dead, dead and so for that matter is your dumb wish! Thanks for writing! —Ed.

**Start the New Year off
on the Wrong Foot**

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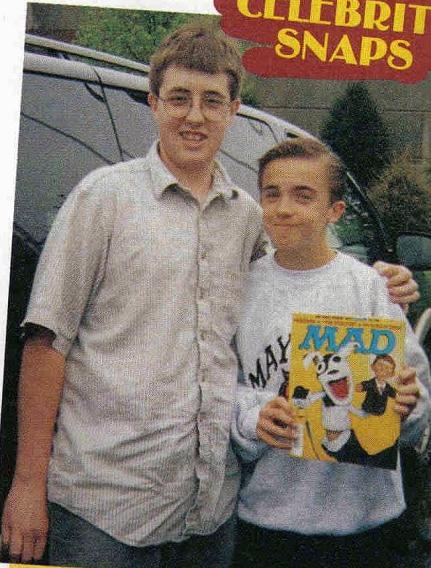


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however, unless they are accom-
panied by a self-addressed,
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read faxed submissions!

MAD CELEBRITY SNAPS



Steven Kruszkowski of Maynard, MA snags a three-year subscription with this celebrity snap of Frankie Muniz from the TV show *Malcolm In The Middle*, who coincidentally, is featured in yet another MAD TV Satire, "Malcontent in the Muddle" (how we keep coming up with these hilarious parody titles we'll never know) on page seven! Congrats Steve and sorry, Frankie!



PROSE AND CONVICTS

Just like to say I'd be lost without your magazine, passing those long locked-up nights. I don't know what I'd do. Maybe freak out and add another charge. Which is not right anyway, 'cause I didn't do it! You understand? Huh? O.K., I'm calm now.

Marco Miles, Boulder County Jail
Boulder, CO

P.S. Could you send me a free subscription?

Marco Polo — Thanks for writing. Your letter once again validates our sales force's number one slogan "MAD: It's a Great Prison Read." Unfortunately, we can't send you a free subscription. We are, however, sending you a grapefruit spoon in a Hostess Twinkie. Start now and freedom could be yours as early as 2037. See ya on the outside! — Ed.

P.S. Give our best to Captain Hank!

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ON SALE MARCH 20!
MAD COLOR CLASSICS #3
ON SALE MARCH 20!

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MADMAG.COMPLIMENTS

You guys have been with me for most of my life. I started reading MAD when I was seven. My parents recognized at an early age that I had a weird sense of humor. In fact, whenever I was sick as a child, along with chicken soup came the latest issue of MAD. They knew it would make me feel better. Humor is the greatest healer. That was 1974. Although I should have subscribed, I never have. But I still regularly buy each new issue as they come out. To this day, 26 years later, if my parents know I'm ill, they will make a special trip just to bring me the latest issue. It's a thirty-mile drive for them (okay, so they're checking up on me, too) but they always bring the "Usual Gang of Idiots" with them. You guys (and girls) have helped me through some hard times and you've always made the good times better. I just want to thank all of you crazy people who make life a lot more tolerable.

Sam Price, Gainesville, FL

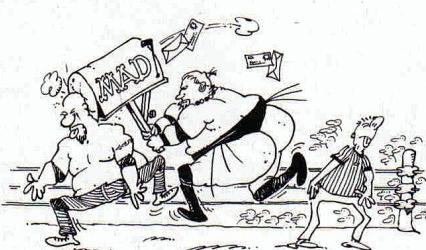
The Price is Right — Thanks for your wonderful and heartwarming letter. Now get out your credit card and dial 1-800-4-MADMAG and subscribe already so your parents don't have to drive for hours just to take care of their sick little babesy-wabesey and make sure their pumpkinhead has the latest issue! Again, thanks for your kind letter. —Ed.

PEOPLE, PEOPLE WHO NEEDLE PEOPLE...

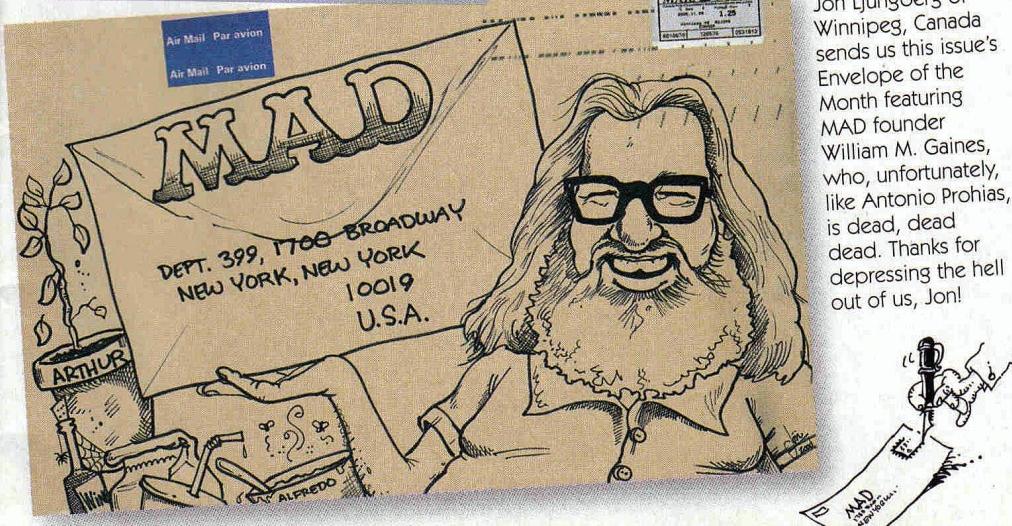
Is Barry Liebmann from Canada, perhaps a relative of Celine Dion? The reason I ask is his third point against George W. Bush ("The Case For/Against Gore/Bush" MAD #398), that "other politically ambitious governors will fry as many criminals in the electric chair as George W. did..." Texans haven't used Ol' Sparky since Hector was a pup. Texas uses lethal injection to dispose of its Death Row guests. George W. never fried anyone, although many deserved it. You can quit worrying about your power grids. Millions of readers will probably be misled by Barry's groundless fearmongering.

William Cowper Brann, Waco, TX

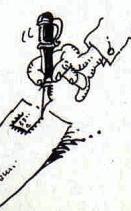
Wild Bill — Thanks for your wonderfully attuned letter. In answer to your question, yes, Barry Liebmann is from Canada and may have once shared an escalator with Celine Dion. As to your point about Ol' Sparky vs. Lethal Injection, about halfway through your ranting, rambling letter we would have welcomed either! See ya on The Green Mile! By the way, who the @#\$% is Hector?? —Ed.



ENVELOPE OF THE MONTH



Jon Ljungberg of Winnipeg, Canada sends us this issue's Envelope of the Month featuring MAD founder William M. Gaines, who, unfortunately, like Antonio Prohias, is dead, dead dead. Thanks for depressing the hell out of us, Jon!



MAD

...What Women Really Want

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the usual gang of idiots

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DYSFUNKTIONAL FAMILY DEPT.

Somehow those nutheads at Fox TV got the idea that dysfunctional equals funny. "Imagine how hilarious it will be," they said, "if we get dysfunctional parents and some dysfunctional kids and have them surround a whiny semi-normal kid who won't shut up. It will be comedy gold!" Gold? Hmmm. We think it's just nonstop dribblings from a...

Malcontent in the Muddle

ARTIST: TOM RICHMOND

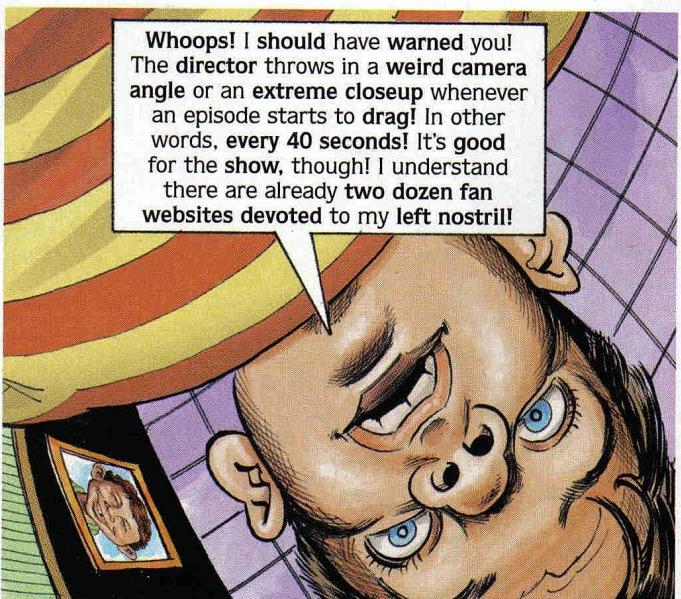
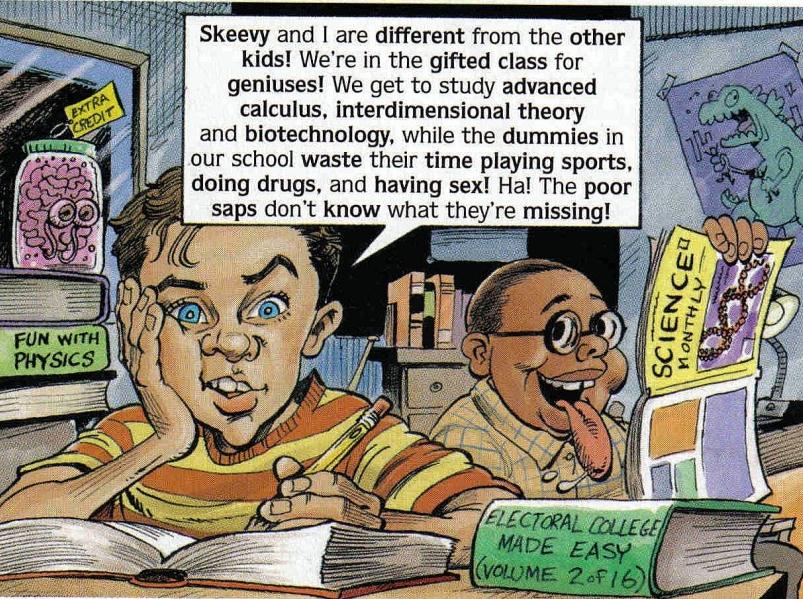
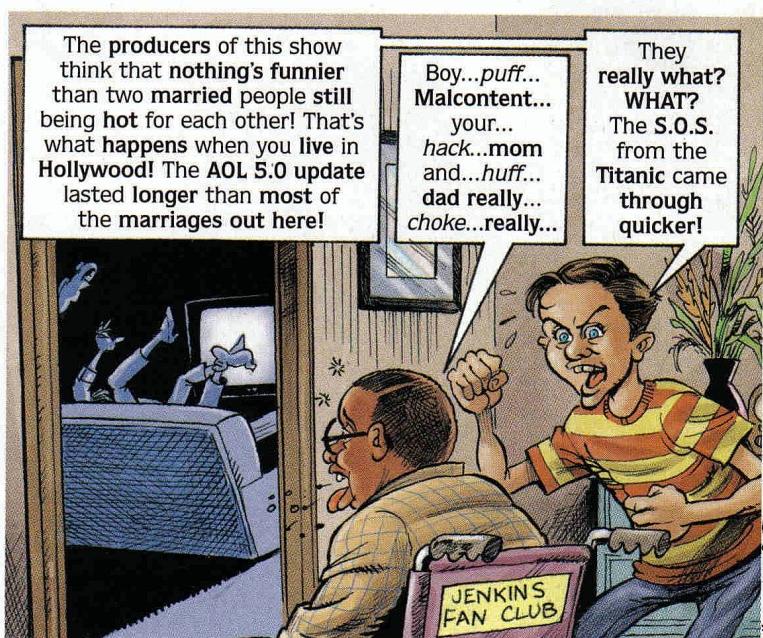
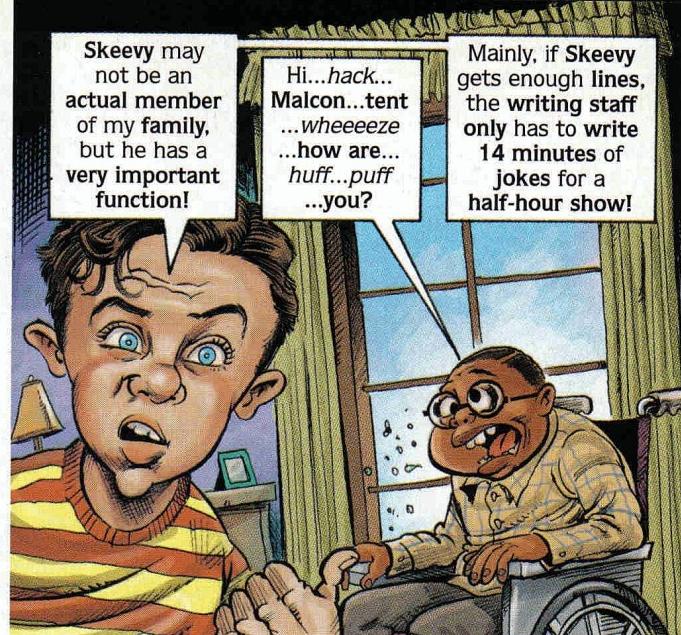
WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN

In real life, when a kid starts talking to somebody who's invisible, they jack up his dosage of Ritalin! On Fox, they gave me my own show! My job is to keep the ratings cruising along, from *Futurama* to *King of the Hill* to *The Simpsons*, but it's going to be tough! The people on this show aren't nearly as realistic!

Over there screaming at my family is my mom, Mom! She's overbearing, brash, has poofy hair and a white-trash attitude! But don't get me wrong, she prays every day! Mostly, she prays that nobody will remember Peggy Bundy from *Married...With Children*!

There goes my dad, Dad! He provides us with something important that our family would otherwise lack: a mother figure!

Richmond
00



I'm home!

Frantic!
YES!
You're
home from
military
school!

Of course
I'm back,
doofball!
Haven't you
noticed that
I come home
to visit in
every episode?

Or that mom and
dad sent him
away to a
military school
that just happens
to be across
the street from
our house?

I didn't notice any
of that! When I
spend 90% of the
time staring into
the camera talking
to you, I miss a lot
of what goes on
around here!

I was starting to
get nervous! The
show's been on
for almost five
minutes! We never
go that long
without a barbaric
act of mayhem!

Wheels, don't drop
the hot oil until you
see the fire station!

But... I...
don't... huff...
want... to!

Our series has
all the cruelty
and violence
of the World
Wrestling
Federation...
only without
the subtlety!

Hi, Frantic!
You haven't
visited us
from school
since eight
this morning!
How are
your grades?

Pretty good! I got
an A- in Vandalism,
B's in Advanced
Torture and Abuse,
and an Incomplete
in Hostage
Negotiating!

Well, just remember one thing, Mister!
Life is no day at the circus! So you have to
make sure Mr. Elephant doesn't eat your
last peanut! Just because you can fill a
tiny car with 24 midget clowns is no reason
to assume the ringmaster is your friend!
Do you want to be the guy who rides the
horse, or the guy who washes the horse?

This is the part
of the show where mom
spews out her loony
analogies and advice!
It's always a bunch of
nonsensical, nonlinear
non sequiturs! It's
also non-funny!

Son, when-
ever your
mother gets
this way, it's
best just
to let
her go!

But this is pointless,
forced wackiness! This
week, "life isn't a circus!"
Last week, "life wasn't an
African safari!" Next week,
"life won't be a course in
air conditioner repair!"

That's very astute, Malcontent!
I'll bring that up at the next
rehearsal! With your IQ, I'm
sure you'll come up with
replacement jokes for all the
filler we'll be cutting out of
the show, thanks to your ideas!

Um...ah
hey, mom!
You left
out the
part
about
the lion
tamers!

I'm leaving! It's
time for one of
those kooky
"abandonment"
gimmicks I do! It
gives you boys a
chance for some
male bonding!

The big
difference
is, in my
family our
male bonding
generally involves
Krazy Glue!

Yow!
We must be
doing nothing
again,
because the
camera angle
just went
dipsy-doodle!

That reminds me, son! We
got a call from a lady
complaining about the
irritating, super-stylized
way we look on TV! She
says we throw in these
crazy shots for no reason!

Yeah?
What
was
her
name?

Missy
Elliott!

Hey dad,
Gooley just
roasted your
wedding
album in the
microwave!

Good work,
son! Excellent!
Aren't you
going to
punish him?

Hell no! If it weren't
for random acts of
destruction, we'd
never get a plot going
around here! Now,
we're in business!

This isn't the kind of
thing a person can
duck responsibility for! The best thing
to do is sit mom
down, tell her
something terrible
has happened, and
just show her—

Right! We'll go buy
some bridal magazines,
cut out the photos and
digitally manipulate
the images to fool her
into thinking the
wedding album is
still in one piece!

With
parenting like
this, is it any
wonder that
I'll probably
end up
running my
very own
suicide cult?

But isn't this like the
episode where we
wrecked mom's dress
and tried to hide it from
her? Or where we
wrecked the house and
tried to hide it? Or when
we wrecked mom's—

I know! Despite what FOX
promos say, these plots are
about as wild and original
as when the Brady boys broke
mom's favorite vase! It's
Newton's Third Law of Sitcom
Physics! For every action,
there is a zany reaction!

There you
go! It's
perfect!

Oh yeah?
Then how
come you
and mom
are black?

Okay, it's ALMOST
perfect! I'll just
tell your mother
that that photo
got switched with
the negative!
Okay, assume
places, and wait
for your mother!

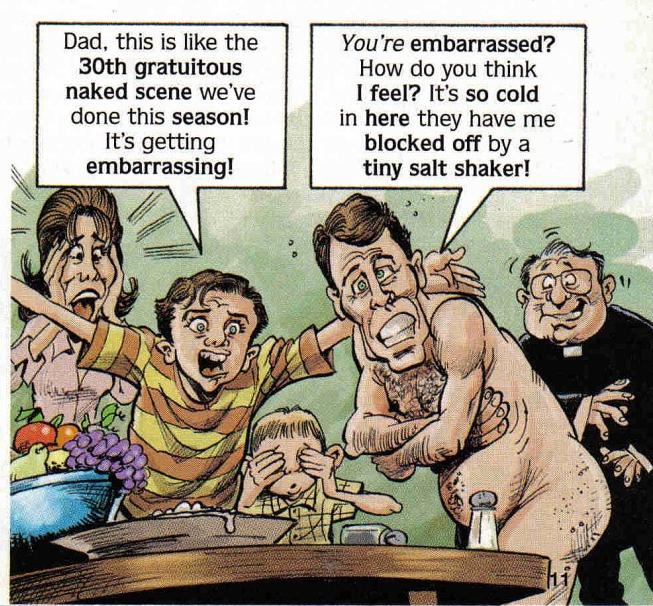
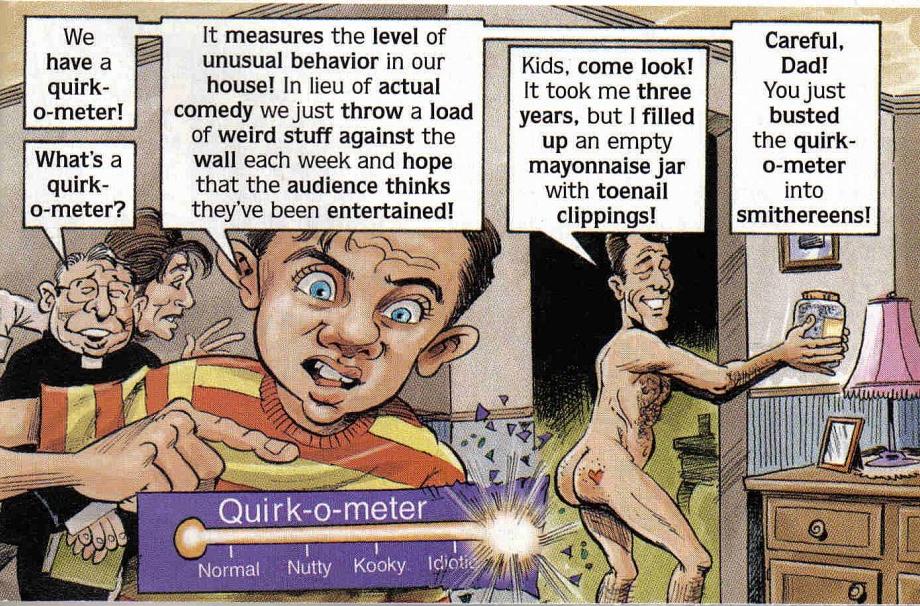
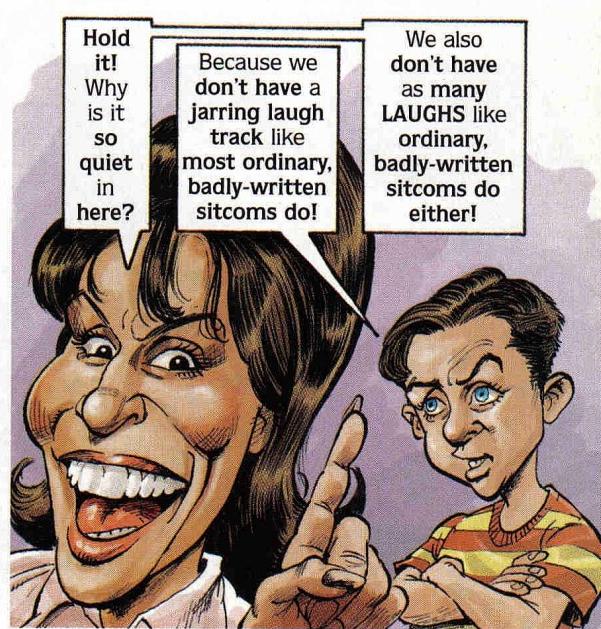
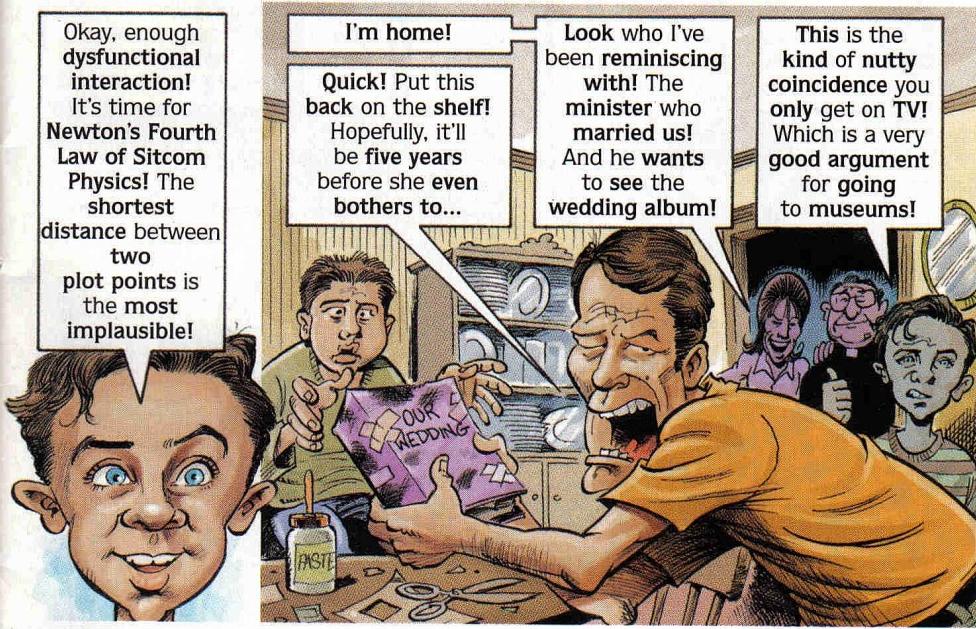
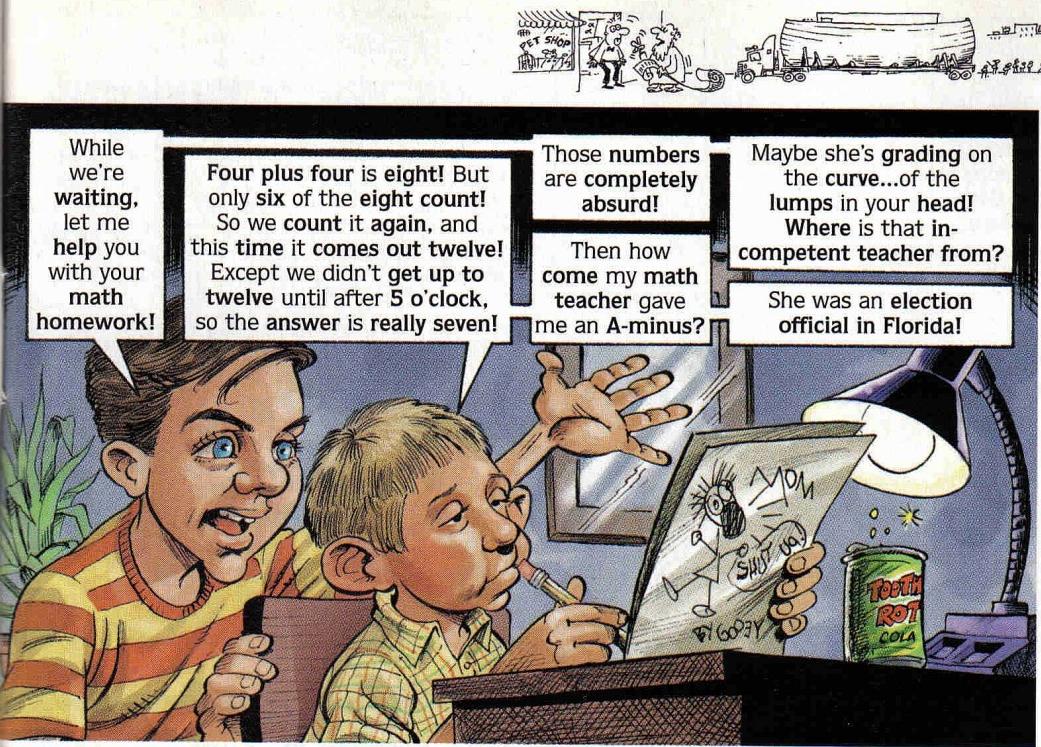
And as I watched Winnie clean out her ear with a school compass, I realized there were things
inside her I could never understand! I understood that there were things I could never realize!
But the thing I had never realized was that I understood that realization could be so...real!

What
is
this
show?

The Wonder Years on Nick! I like
when the show stops dead so Kevin
can do a voiceover to the audience,
before the show starts up again!

Malcontent,
that's just
like what
you do!

Not
exactly! Our
show NEVER
starts up
again!



This brings back so many images... so many weird images! I don't remember Gwyneth Paltrow being your best man!

Uh....

I also don't recall a B+ review of the new 'N Sync album being part of my wedding dress! Or a milk mustache on the caterer, supermodel Christy Turlington!

And I'm fairly certain that I did not conduct the ceremony in full Goth makeup!

Jerk! I told you not to cut those pictures out of Entertainment Weekly!

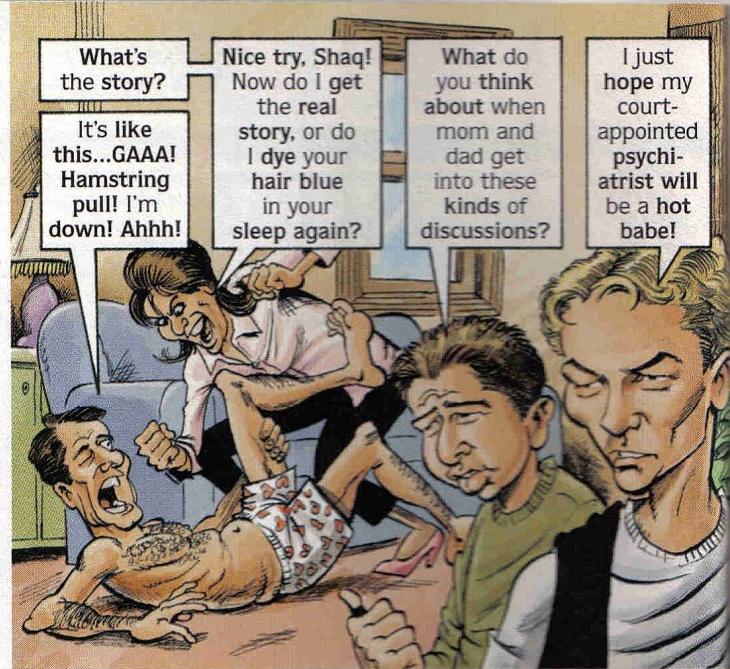
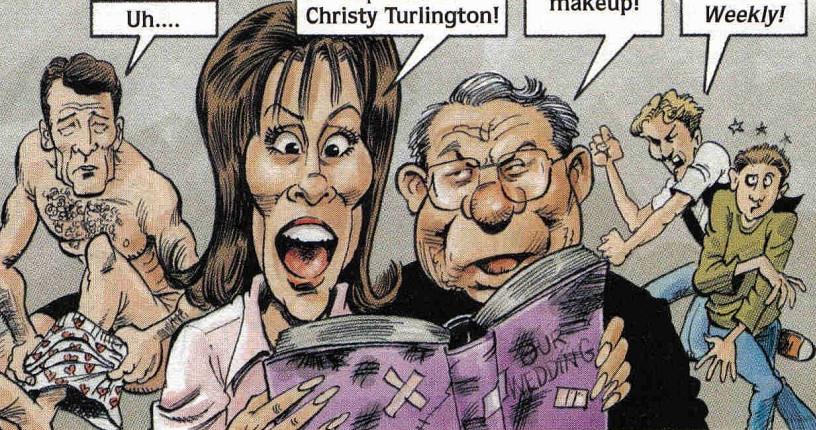
What's the story?

It's like this...GAAA! Hamstring pull! I'm down! Ahhh!

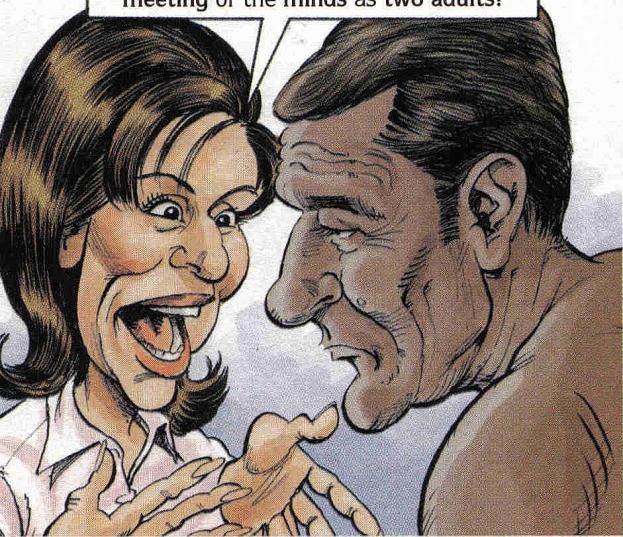
Nice try, Shaq! Now do I get the real story, or do I dye your hair blue in your sleep again?

What do you think about when mom and dad get into these kinds of discussions?

I just hope my court-appointed psychiatrist will be a hot babe!



Howl, you really hurt my feelings! You betrayed my trust! And there's only one mature way I know of for us to sensibly address these issues and come to a meeting of the minds as two adults!

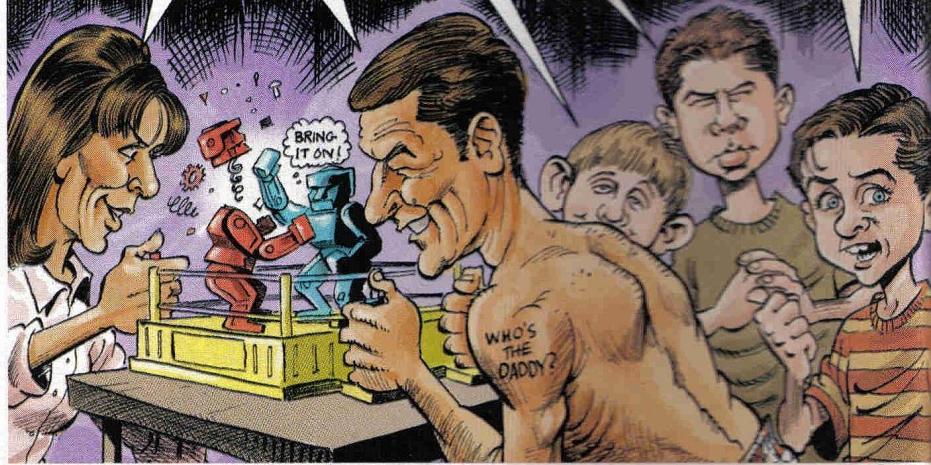


Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots!
Best 2-out-of-3 gets to be on top!

The marriage that decapitates together cohabitates together! Yaarrghh!

This is totally immature, and I'm just five years old!

You're right! This makes no sense at all!
It doesn't have to make sense! "Mannered peculiarity" + "pop culture reference" = "Emmy nomination"!



You might say that everything's back to abnormal around here! My brother Frantic went back to military school, but he'll probably be back for dinner! The Coast Guard radioed that they spotted Skeevy off the coast of Newfoundland! I assume Gooey is still in the mall fountain where we left him yesterday!

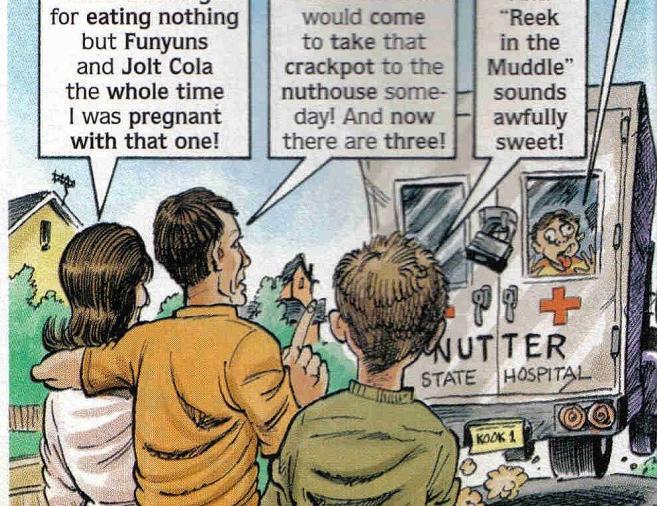
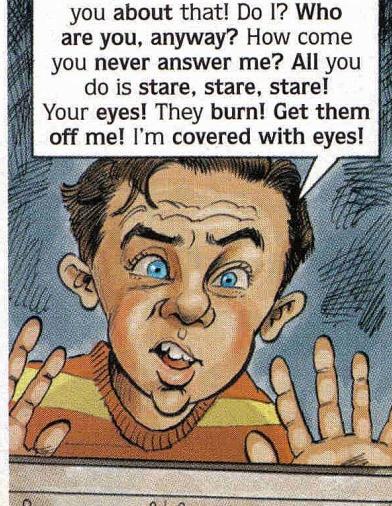
Unfortunately, that means that my boring life is pretty much the same, too! But I don't have to tell you about that! Do I? Who are you, anyway? How come you never answer me? All you do is stare, stare, stare! Your eyes! They burn! Get them off me! I'm covered with eyes!

Say something, damn you! Acknowledge me! Who am I talking to? I'm so terribly alone! Nuh! Nuh! Nuh!

That's what I get for eating nothing but Funyuns and Jolt Cola the whole time I was pregnant with that one!

I knew the men would come to take that crackpot to the nuthouse someday! And now there are three!

And "Reek in the Muddle" sounds awfully sweet!

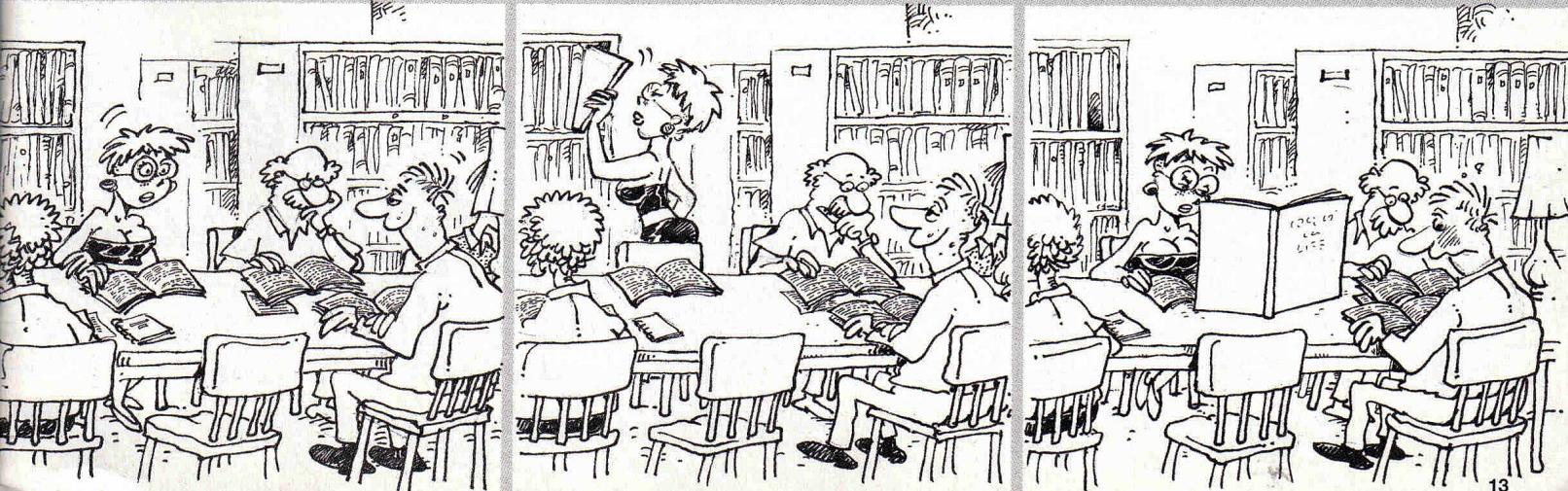
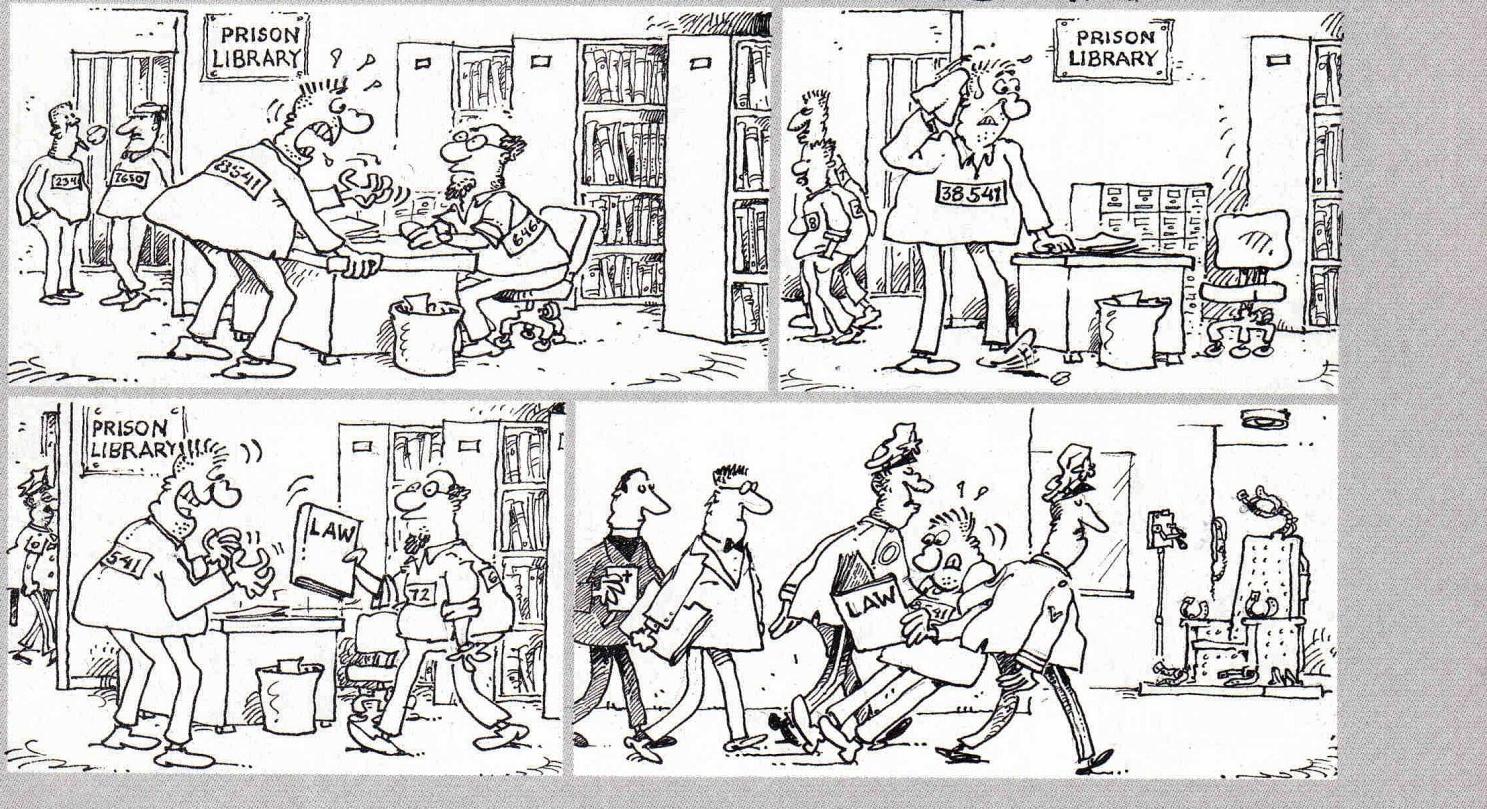


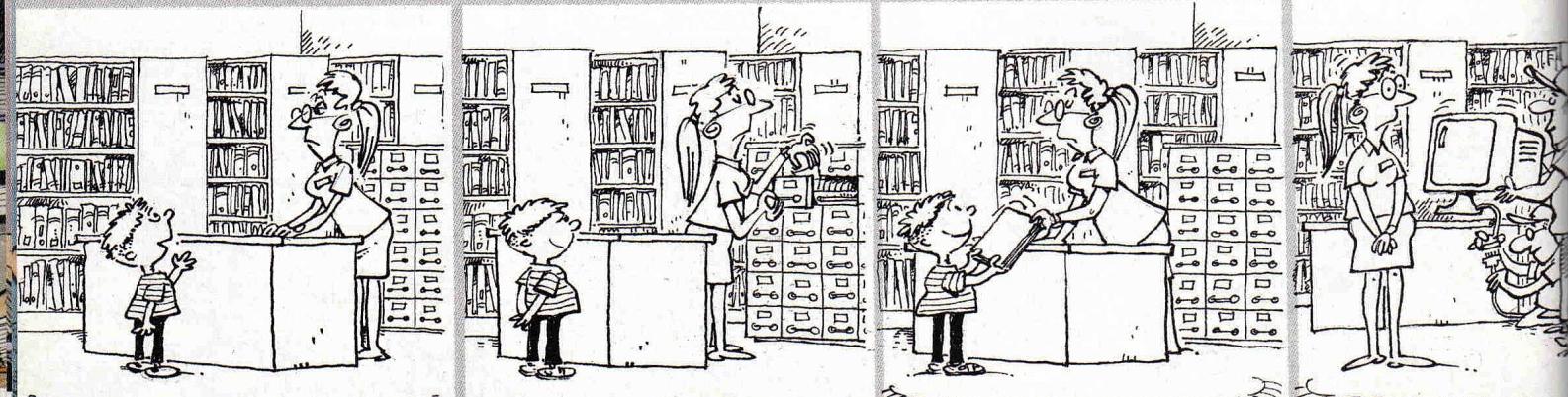
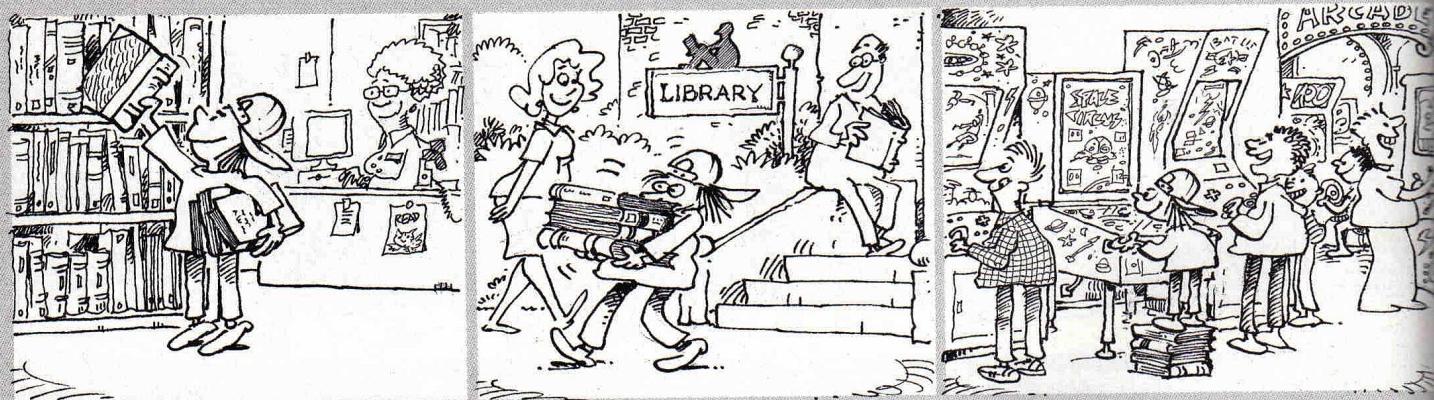
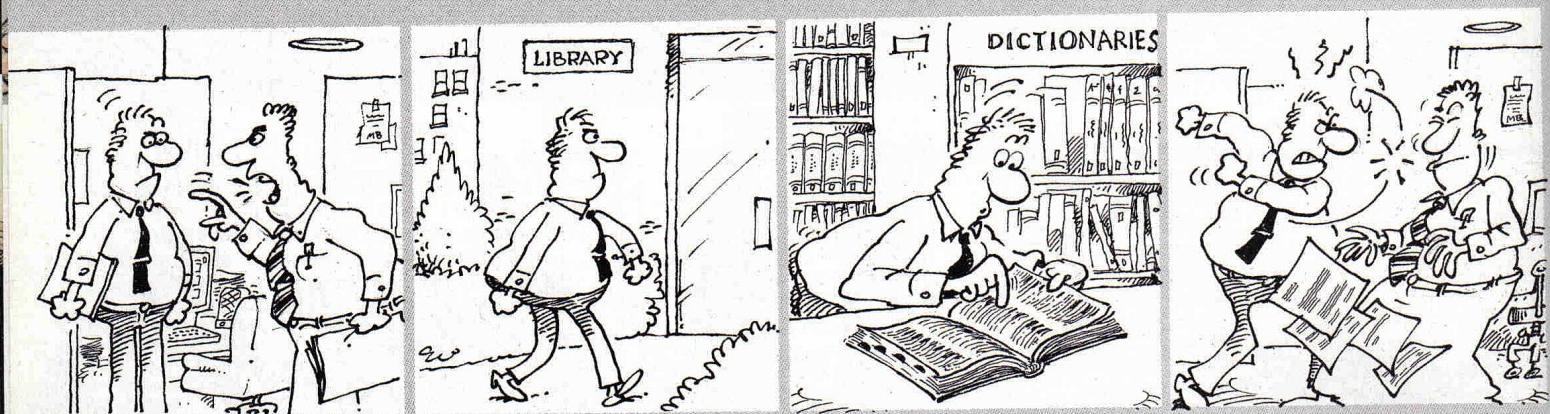
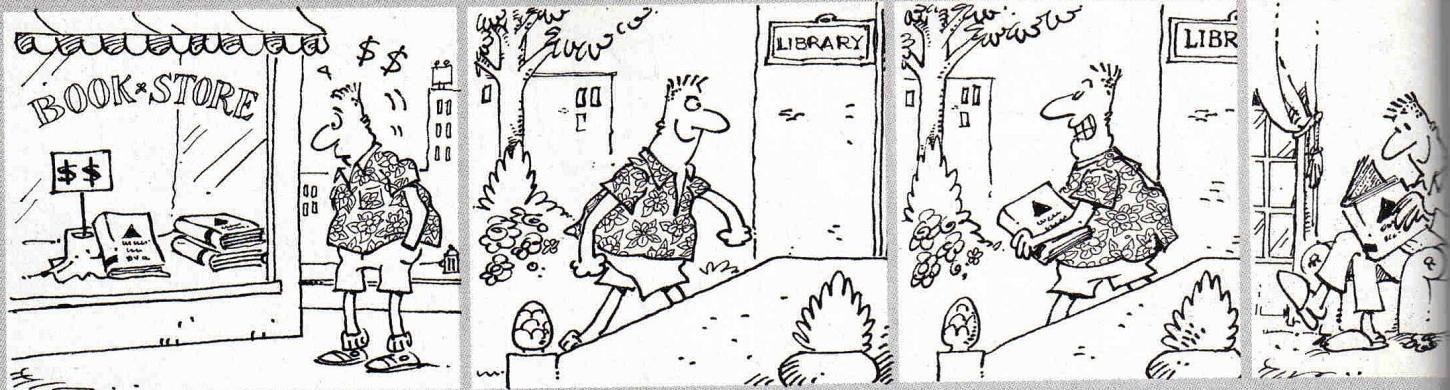


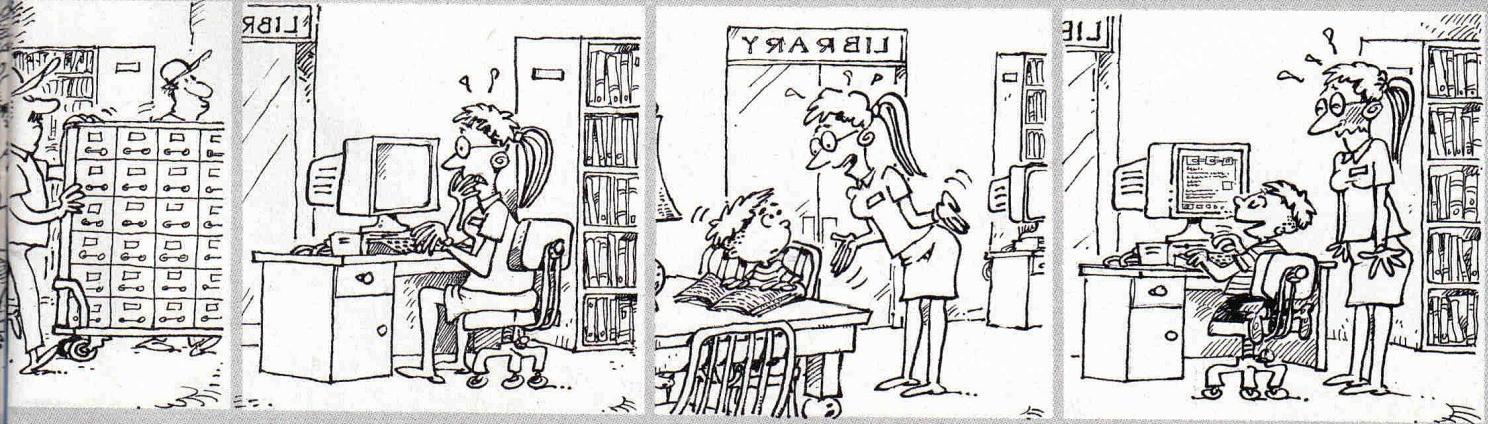
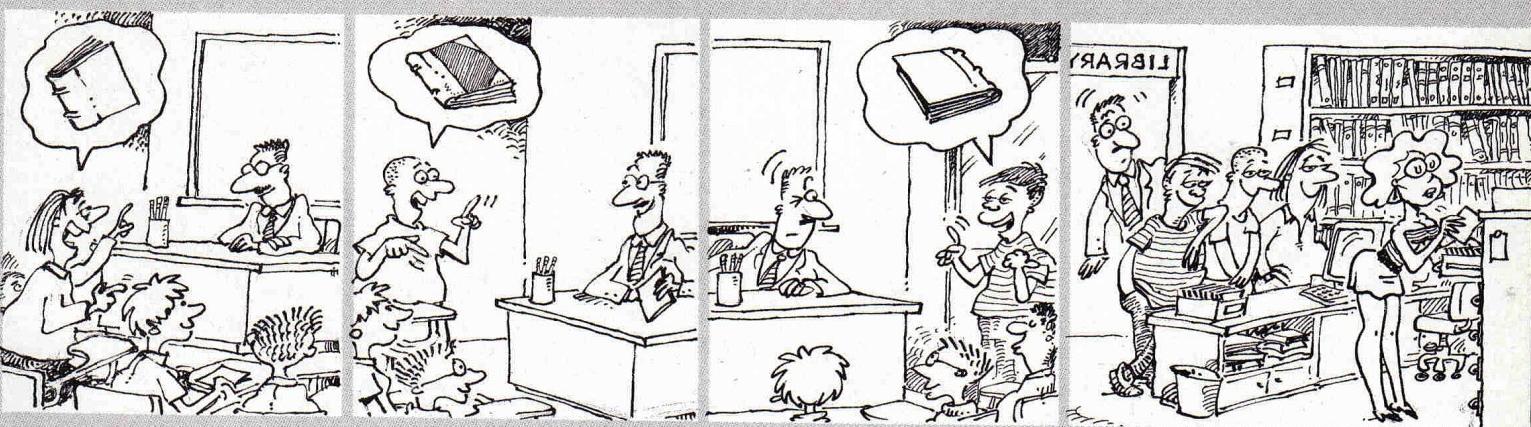
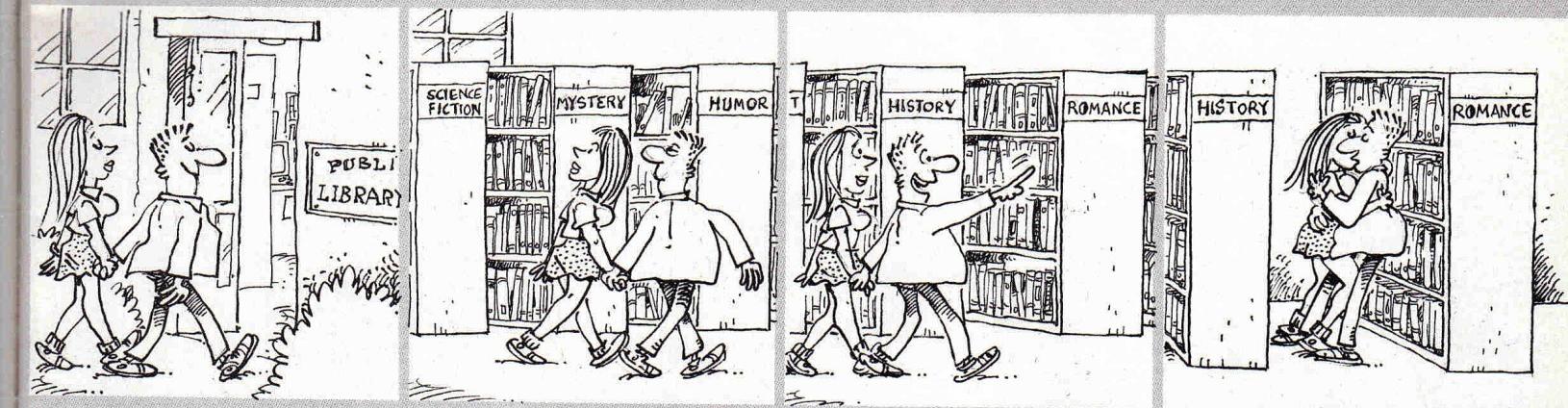
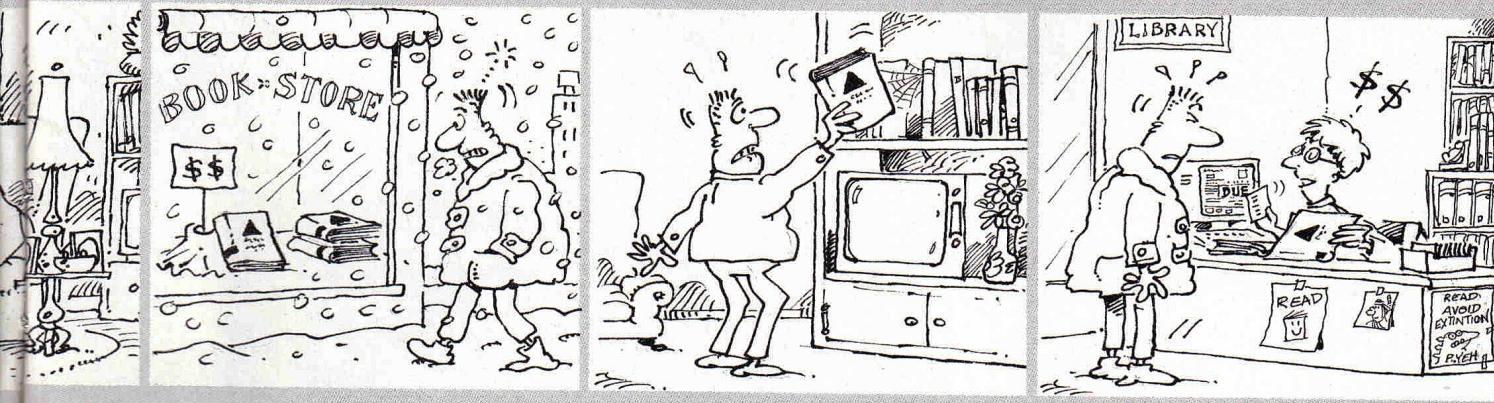
SERGE-IN GENERAL DEPT.

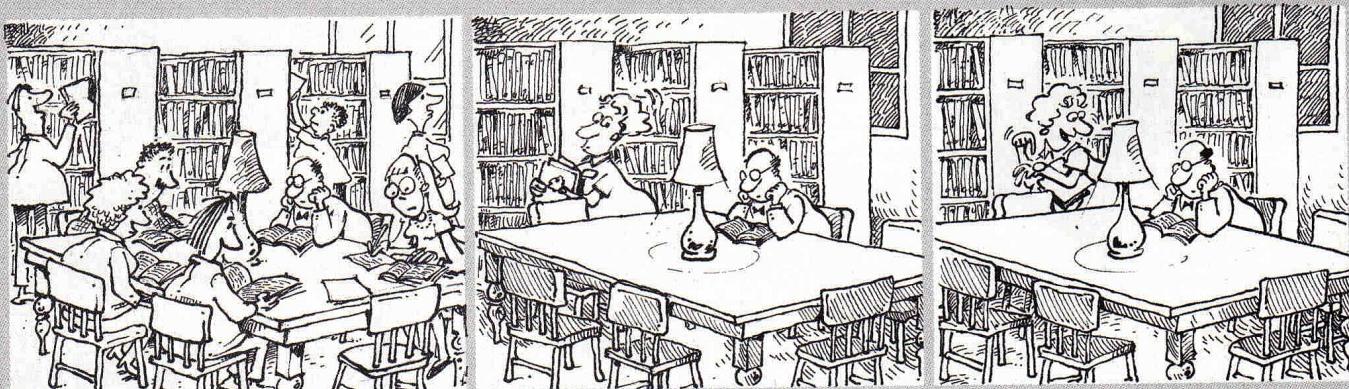
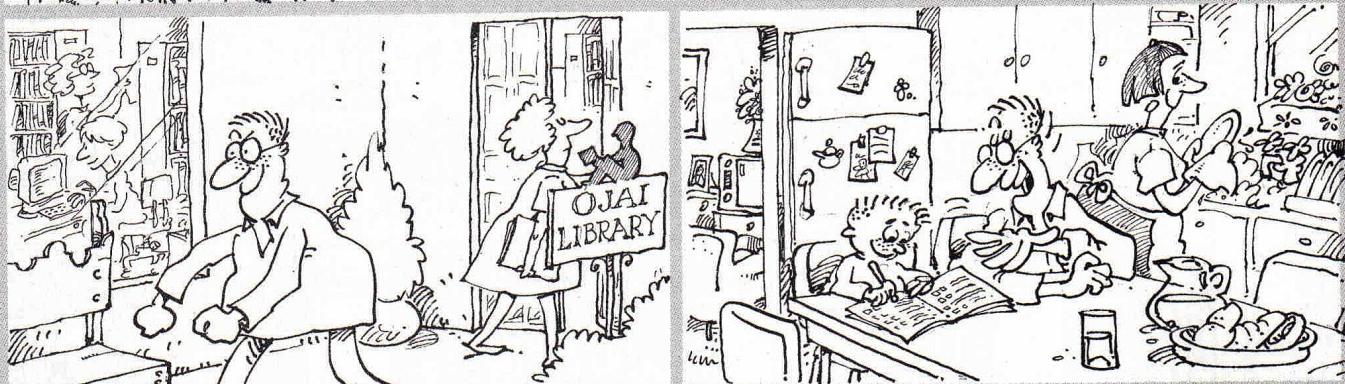
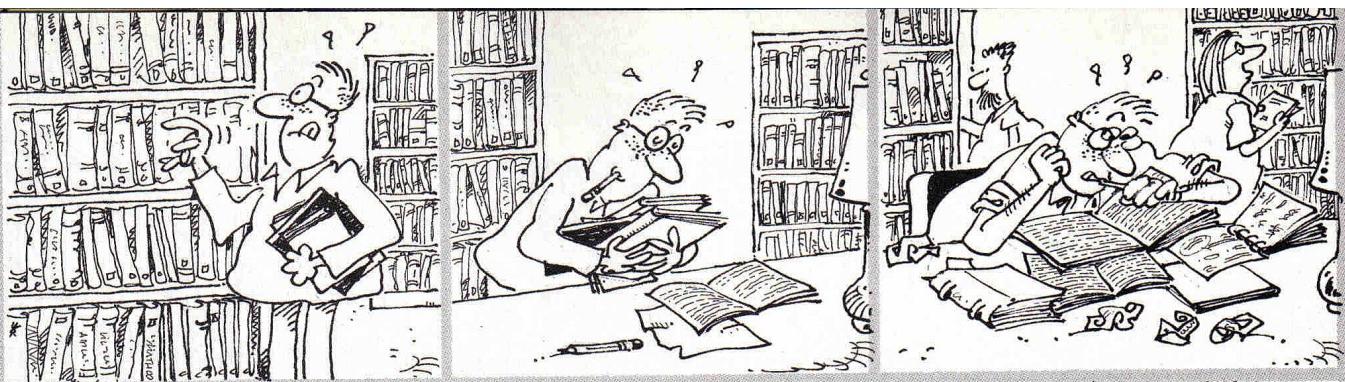
A MAD LOOK AT THE LIBRARY

ARTIST AND WRITER: SERGIO ARAGONES











MAIL DOMINANCE DEPT.

It seems no one has time to write a letter anymore. Communication has been reduced to a quick phone message, a brief fax, or a few numbers sent on a pager. A good old-fashioned letter has become a lost art! We at MAD want to put a halt to this disturbing trend because frequently the best way to get what you want is by crafting a manipulative missive. Our lofty goal is to pass on to America's youth the rewards that await them if only they correctly take pen in hand. Thus, therefore, and hence, we present to you . . .

A KID'S

THANK YOU LETTER TO GRANDMA

Make a wizened statement of fiscally sound policy.

Add future goals and plans to show you have direction.

Make small talk so it looks like you're not just writing a thank you letter because your mom made you.

Keep it on a first name basis. (Hint: add a "y" to the end of your name for "cute" effect.)

Dear Grandma,
Thank you for the money. I will put it in the bank. I will use it to buy a computer when I'm older. I had a test yesterday. I got an A. (Maybe it was because I wore the red sweater).:-) Thanks again for the money!

Love, Jimmy



State the letter's intention right up front.

Throw in a little brag to ensure that the money keeps rolling in.

Make extraneous reference to the sweater she gave you for Christmas to ensure more money next time.

Reiterate the first line to fill up more space.

Note: Copy letter for all other birthday thank yous, adding only minor variations such as "Thank you very much!" "Thanks!" and "Thanx!"

PRODUCT MANUFACTURER LETTER

Let them get to know the real you. Key words to use: church, studying and helping the elderly.

Make them panic. Quick solutions and free skateboards will follow.

Dear Skate-co,
Hello, my name is John Peters. I bought a defective skateboard from your company last week. I was skateboarding to church on Sunday, as I usually do when I'm not studying for advanced placement classes or doing community service for the elderly, when suddenly the wheels locked and I was sent flying forward. A truck then rolled over my board. Luckily, my spine wasn't splintered in two like my board. My daddy says I should sue you for everything you're worth, but all I really want is a new skateboard.

I hope we can clear up this little "problem" as soon as possible.

John Peters

P.S. Did I mention my dad's a lawyer?

Don't be too specific. For example, don't mention your dad smashed it with the car because you left it in the driveway.

Be graphic about how close you came to catastrophic injury.

Show that you're willing to take care of this "out of court."

GUIDE TO WRITING LETTERS

SPORTS FAN LETTER

Continually pile on the flattery.

Work on pity.

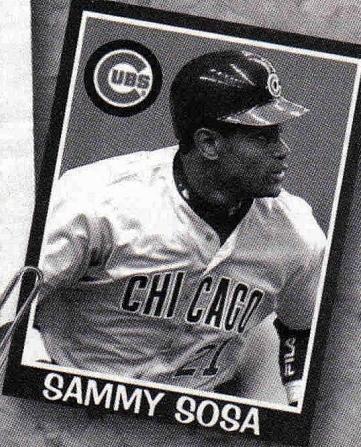
Include innocent alias.

Don't let him know you intend to trade the autograph for the Ken Griffey Jr. rookie card you really want.

Dear Sammy Sosa,
I love watching you play. You're my favoritest player. I liked you even before you won the MVP award. I like to play baseball too, but I broke my leg and haven't been able to play this seesun. It would mean a lot while I sit here bedridden, if you could sign the enclosed baseball card.

Your bestest fan,
Billy

P.S. I know you're busy so don't bother to sign the card to me, just sign your name.



SAMMY SOSA

PARENTAL EXCUSE NOTE

Be direct, the sign of a no-nonsense busy parent.

But don't make it sound so bad as to alarm the teacher who might call your parents to discuss your illness.

Note: Do not type!
It's too obvious and blows your cover.

Dear Mrs. Wilson,
My daughter will not be in school today. She has the highly contagious bronchioleningitis mom-ophobia. But she should be fine by tomorrow.

Mary Rasten

Make it sound medically bad and a health risk to all students.

Important: Do not sign your mom's last name like you sign yours!

A KID'S GUIDE TO WRITING LETTERS

LETTER TO MOM AND DAD

Give only pertinent information: Don't mention that you haven't practiced piano for two years.

Be sly. Manipulation works best when you let them think that buying you the game is their idea.

Add one last guilt trip to guarantee the Playstation game.

Dear Mom and Dad,
Once again you missed my school concert. I would have liked to express my disappointment in person, but sadly, our communication channels have been reduced to intra-house memos. You know this lack of parental love will probably handicap my interpersonal communication skills later in life and I will end up living at home, alone and depressed.

Today, when my friend told me how his dad bought him the new Playstation game on sale for a limited time, I thought, wow, now there's a happy family.

Your unloved second son,
Alberto (in case you forgot my name already)

Fabricate some psychological damage with the threat to live at home for the rest of their lives.

Use a yellow Post-it note for drama.

LETTER TO AN EXPERT

Don't mention it's a fifth grade paper.

Make him feel recognized and famous.

To look more formal, include one middle initial more than the person you're writing to.

To... Dr. Donald R. Petterson, PhD.
Subject: Assisting a Fellow Researcher

Dear Dr. Donald R. Petterson,
I am doing a research paper on gorillas. I am familiar with your work and was wondering, as a colleague, if you could shed some light on a few questions I have with my thesis. I've searched everywhere.

1. Where do gorillas live?
2. What do they (the gorillas) eat?
3. In 200 words or more, why are gorillas endangered?

Thank you for your help. If you ever have any questions with your research I would be happy to help.

Sincerely,
William D.L. Smith
Indiana State

Note: Use e-mail so you can cut and paste the response right into your final homework paper.

Give him the impression that you've already done the research.

Illustrate your desire to mutually share information with a fellow academic.

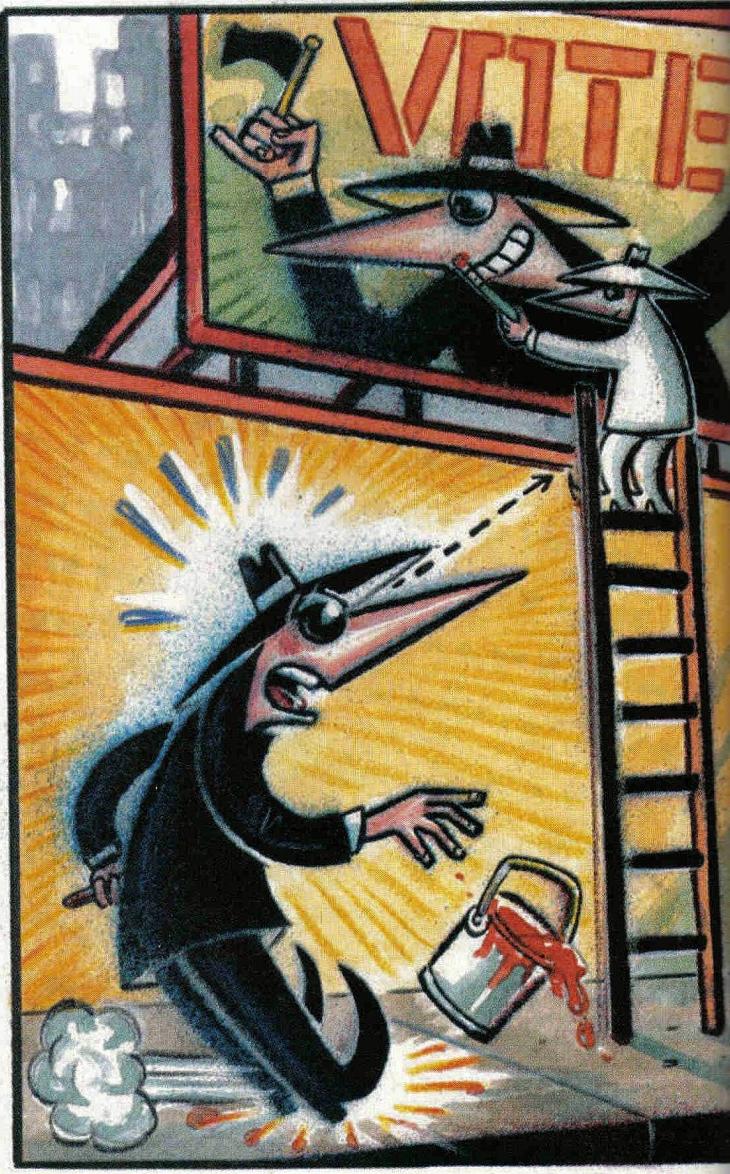
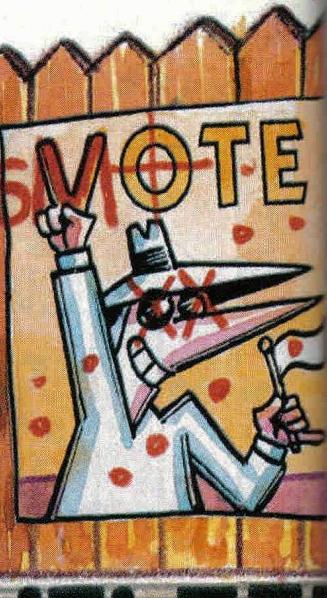
Obscure your location to sound like an academic institution.



JOKE AND DAGGER DEPT.

SPY VS SPY

SPY VS SPY







ANGSTER'S PARADISE DEPT.

Ah, the sights,
sounds and smells
of childbirth.
Boil some water
and tear up
some sheets —
the big day
has arrived!

Monroe and...



THE SPECIAL DELIVERY

BUT, MA,
GRANDPA IS INTO
ME FOR HALF HIS
MONTHLY PENSION
CHECK ALREADY.

YOU CAN HUSTLE
YOUR GRANDPA LATER.
THAT PUDDLE YOU'RE
SITTING IN ISN'T FROM
A LEAKY ROOF!

EWW!
GROSS,
GRAMPS!

IT WASN'T
YOUR GRANDPA,
EINSTEIN. MY WATER
BROKE!

YOU
MEAN...

THAT'S
RIGHT, KIDDIO.
**IT'S BABY
TIME!**

HMM, ANKLE
TAPE... TONGUE
DEPRESSORS...
GAUZE...

NO!
HAPPY PILLS!
MAMA WANTS
HER HAPPY PILLS,
DAMMIT!

HERE'S SOME
SUPPOSITORIES.

YOU KNOW
WHAT YOU
CAN DO WITH
THOSE!

OKAY,
HOW WE
DOING IN
HERE?

JUST
PEACHY, DOC.
EVERY CONTRACTION
FEELS LIKE A MULE IS
KICKING ME IN THE
CROTCH!

FORGET IT! GET
THE CAMCORDER.
YOU'RE MY COACH,
REMEMBER?

HOW ABOUT
THROWING ME
OUT OF THE
GAME, REF?

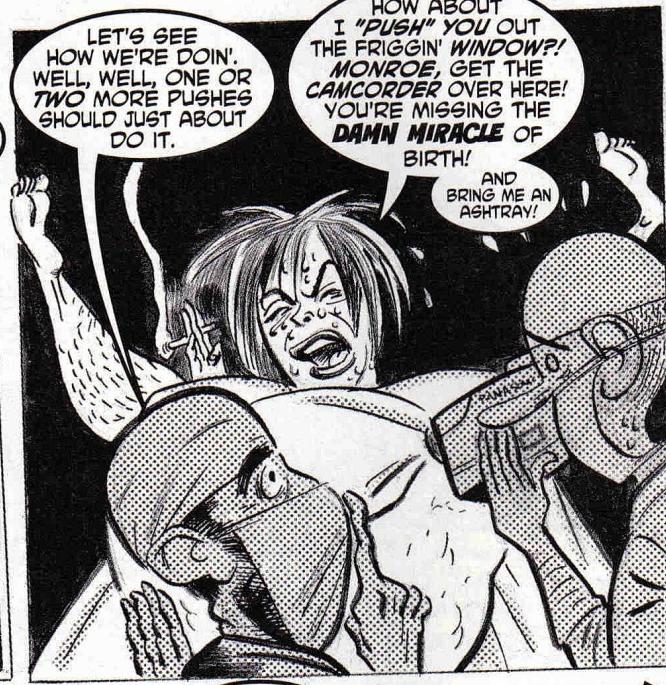
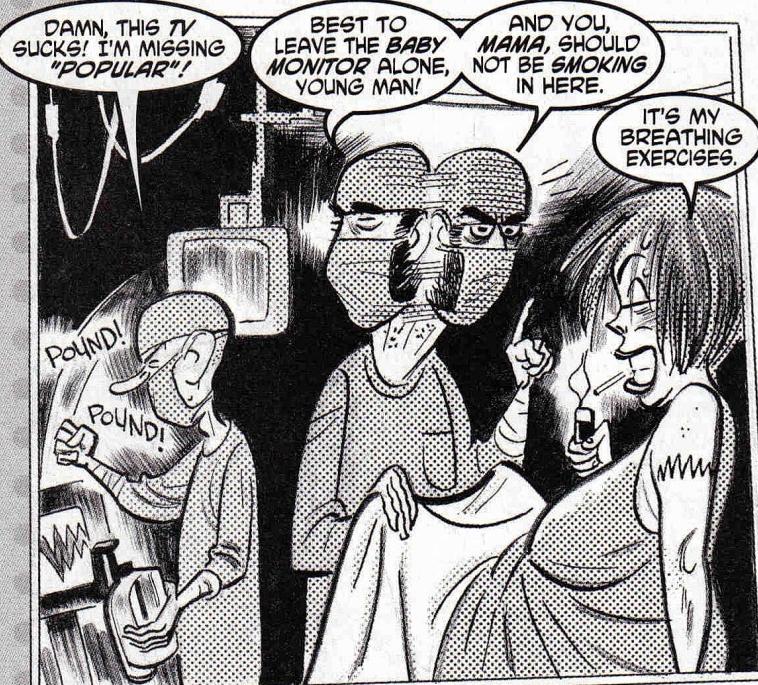
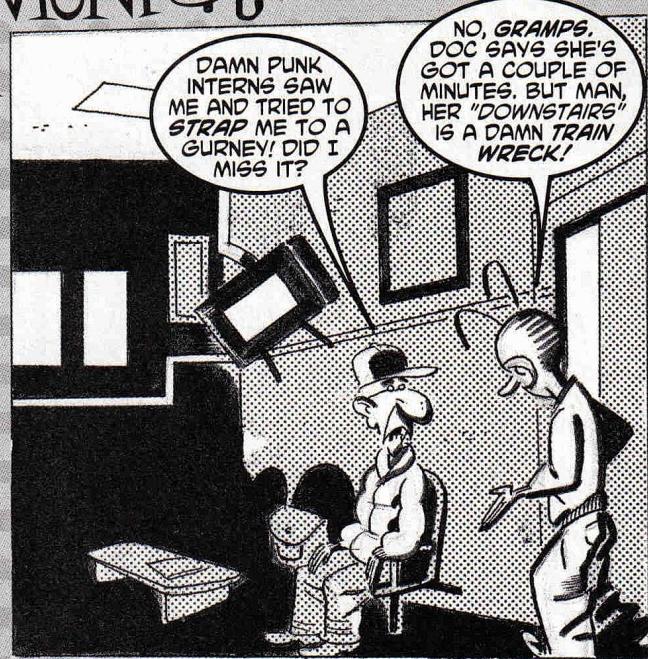
YOU STILL
HAVE A COUPLE
OF MINUTES TO GO.
CAN I GET YOU
ANYTHING?

YEAH. A
PINT OF GIN, A
PLUMBER'S SNAKE
AND SOMETHING
TO BITE DOWN ON!

IT'S A LITTLE LATE
FOR THAT. TRY TO RELAX.
I'M GONNA GO SCRUB
UP.

DON'T
BOther.
NOBODY
ELSE EVER
DID.

Monroe

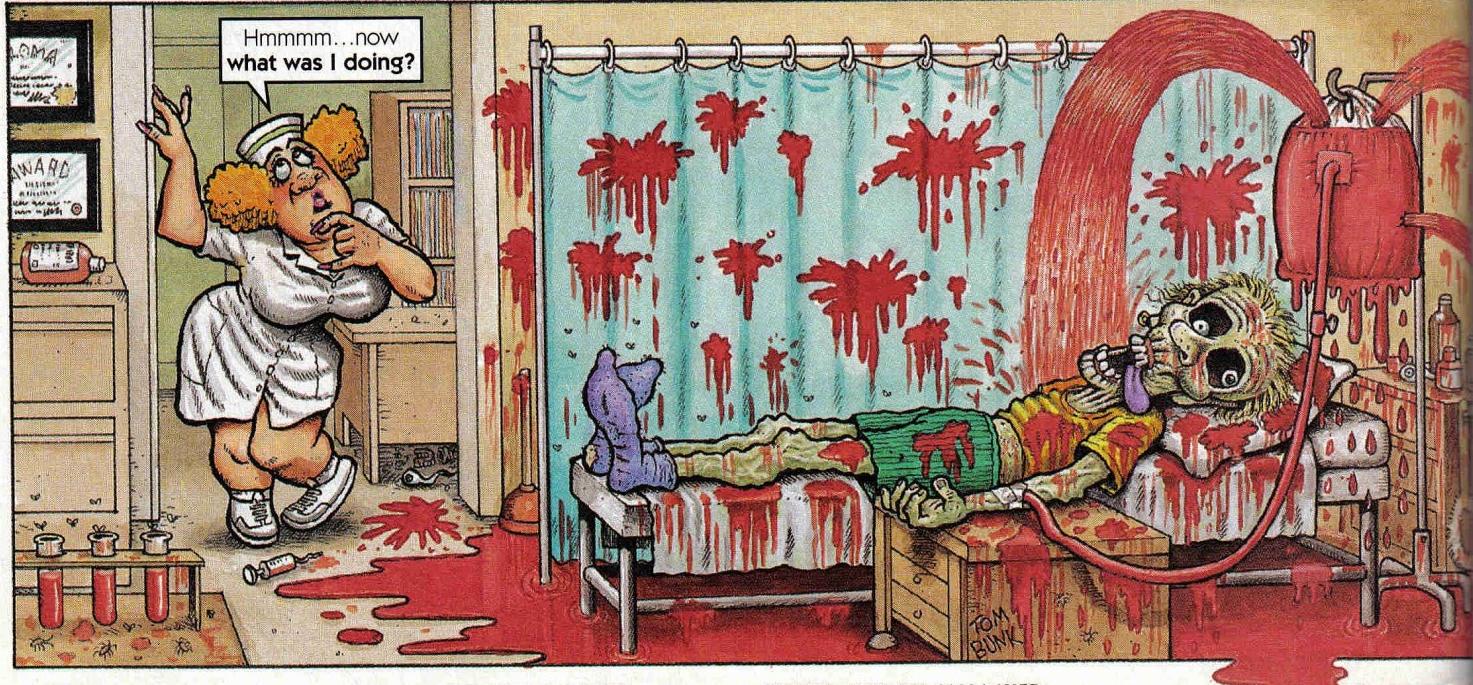
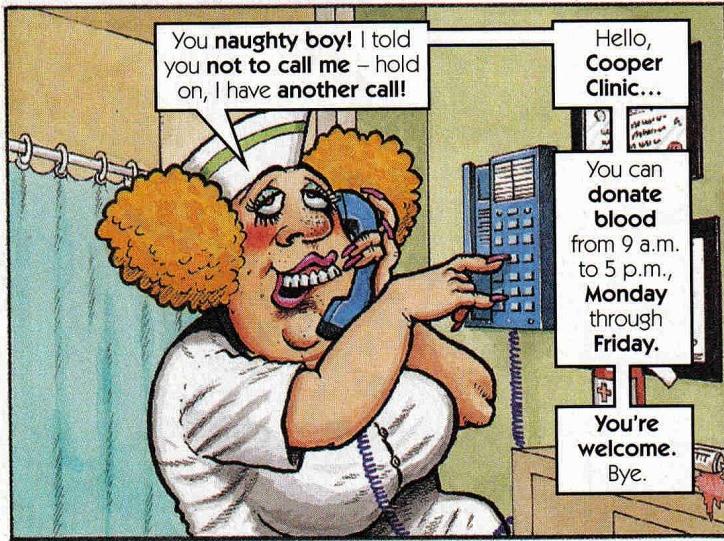






I FEEL YOUR VEIN DEPT.

A BLOODY MESS





Oh no! Not another movie that teams up Bruce Willis with writer/director M. Night Shyamalan! *The Sixth Sense* was bad enough! But this one is even more slow-paced, even HOKIER with its supernatural themes, even more reliant on clichéd upside-down camera angles and uses even more symbolic colors that symbolize nothing! In fact, this one is just plain...

UNBEARABLE

ARTIST: ANGELO TORRES

WRITER: DICK DEBARTOLO

This twisted metal is all that's left of an express train that left the tracks at high speed today! And THIS lucky man seems to be the only person still alive! He's actually very lucky, because the conductor didn't collect his ticket before the wreck, so he'll be able to ride for free on his next trip!

Folks, look right into the camera and tell us who you are!

I'm Deadly Dull, a security guard with so-so psychic powers and an even worse fashion sense! I mostly wear ponchos that hide my face! For formal affairs, I wear a black poncho! For the beach, I wear a blue poncho, and when I garden, I wear a green poncho! It's not like I don't have an imagination! My imagination is as vast as...er, as vast as...um, something very, very vast! And trust me, THAT's vast!

I was born frail! How frail? At the moment of birth, the doctor slapped my butt and broke 17 bones! The first word I ever uttered was "fracture"! Once, a guy standing next to me blew his nose and broke MY neck! The last time I chewed a piece of gum, I broke my jaw! I tell you, I'm frail!!



I love my dad! I want to be exactly like him when I grow up! Except I don't want to be bald, I'd like to have a wife who sleeps in the same bed as me, I'd like to have a decent job and earn more than a crappy Security Guard's salary, I don't want to be such an introvert, and I look dreadful in a poncho, so I'd like to wear ANYTHING but one of those! Outside of that, I want to be a carbon copy of the old man!

I'm Ordinarily Dull, Deadly Dull's wife! Right now our marriage is kind of on the rocks! I'm not sure exactly what went wrong! We used to love the same things — attending funerals, staring at blank walls, mumbling over a glass of wine! But now I suspect he might be mumbling with somebody else! I've decided to give him another chance, because basically he's a good man! A quiet man! Almost a dead man!

Why are you staring at me like that, doc?

You were in a horrible train wreck! Everyone died except you, and you don't have a single mark on you!

Really? Look, I have a broken fingernail on my right hand and a smudge on my left calf! That's not getting away without a mark!

No wonder people call doctors quacks!

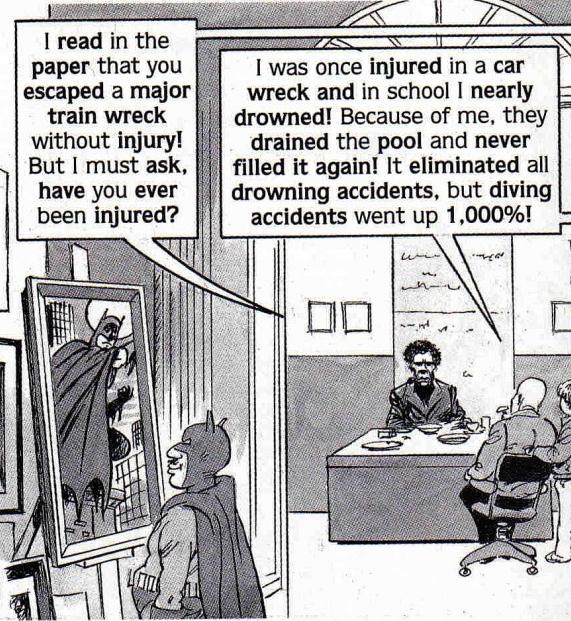
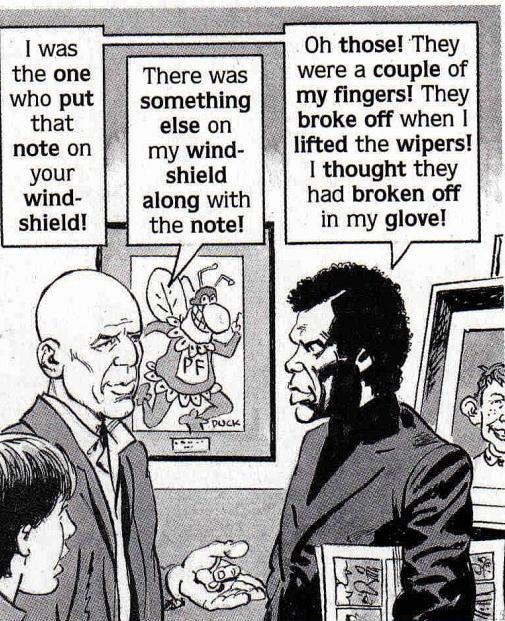
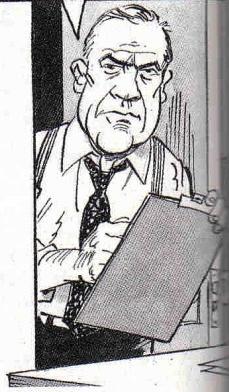
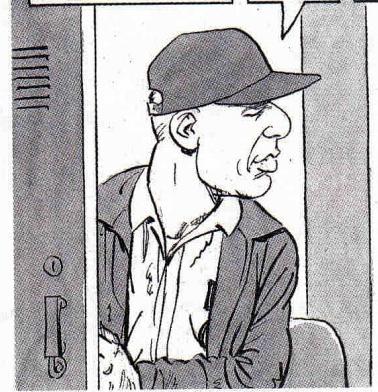
Where exactly were you sitting on the train?

In the "no smoking, no picking up married women, no death" section!

You asked how many sick days you took in the five years you've worked here! The answer is "none"! You took no sick days in five years!

That's great! Then I guess I should get a raise!

No sick days, but twice you took maternity leave, seven times you took off time to attend your grandmother's funeral and you always take off on Arbor Day! Forget the raise!



I have a rare genetic disorder! Sticks and stones can break my bones, but a gentle breeze can also break my knees! I watched people die in fires and plane crashes and then I saw a story about a train accident with a sole survivor, unharmed! I began to wonder is there someone like me out there — at the opposite end of the scale...

You mean like someone sane?

By the way, your shop has quite an impressive collection!

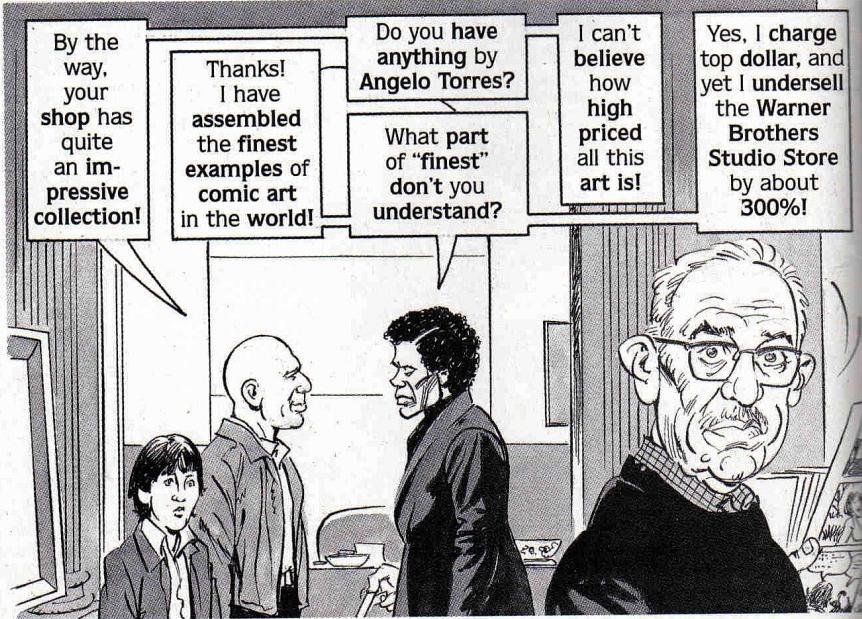
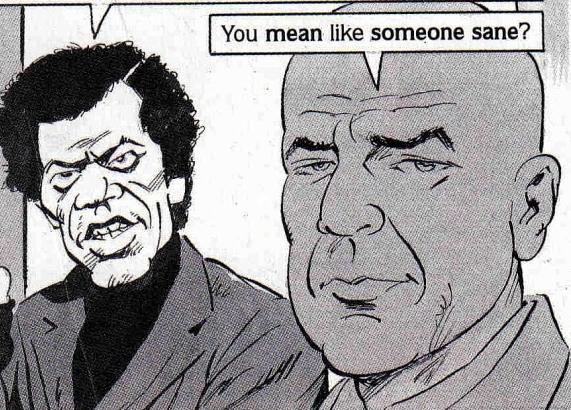
Thanks! I have assembled the finest examples of comic art in the world!

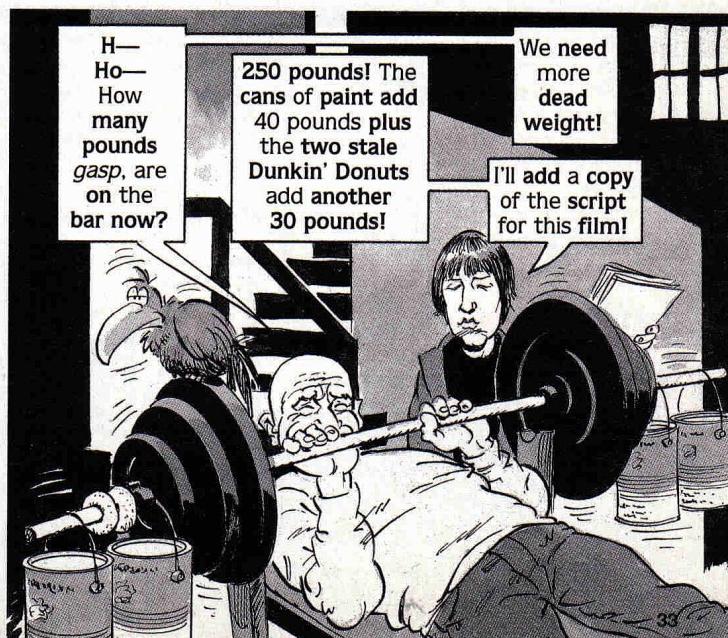
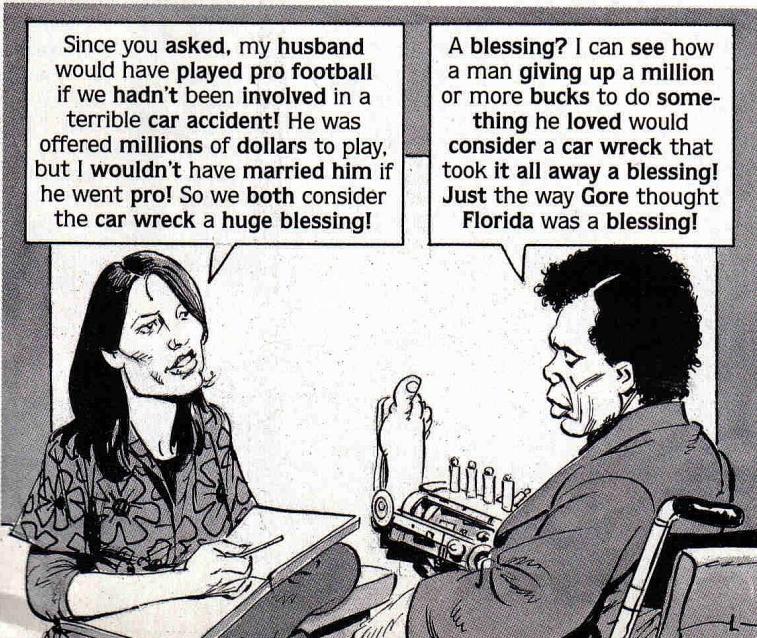
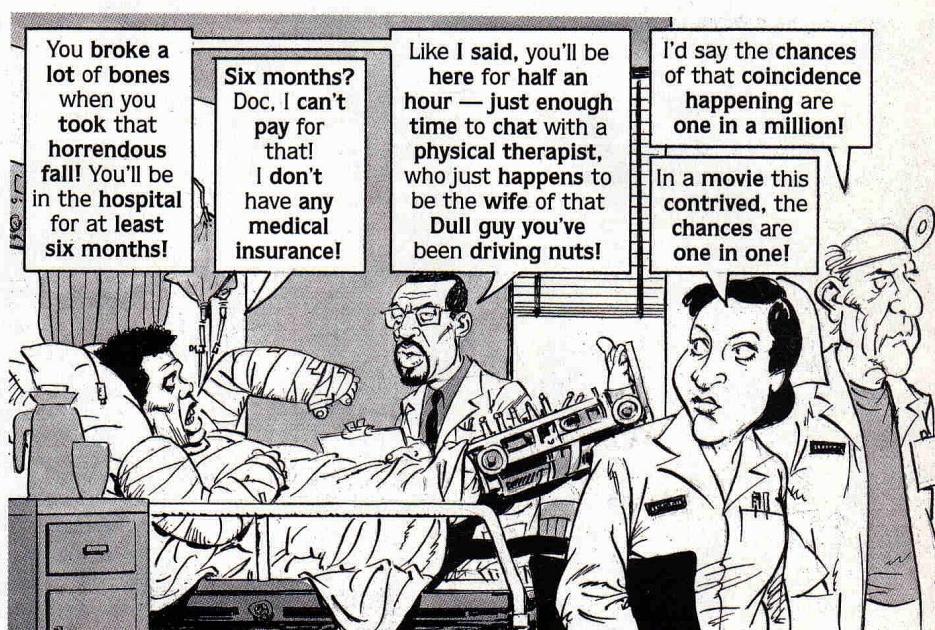
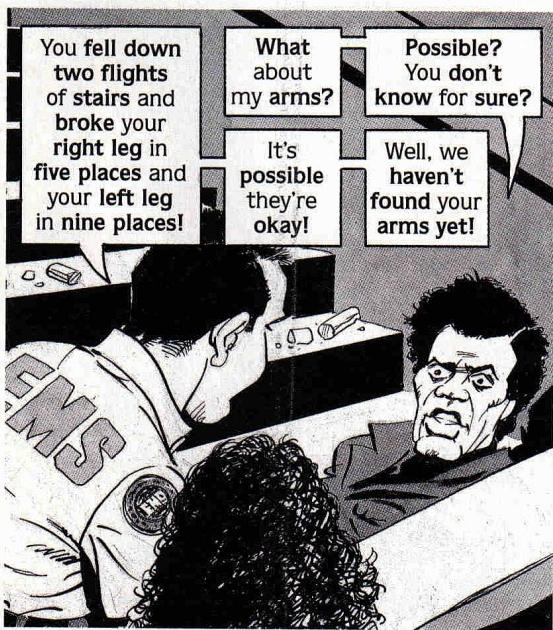
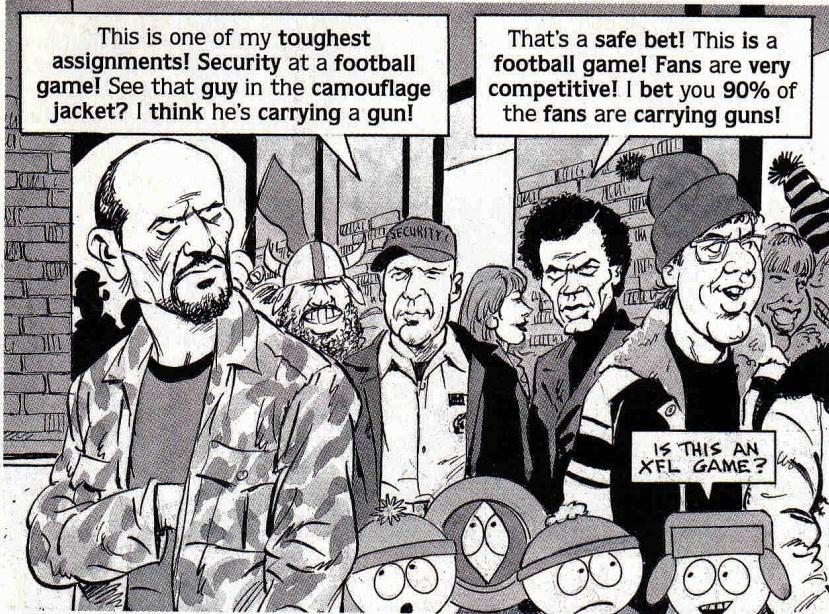
Do you have anything by Angelo Torres?

What part of "finest" don't you understand?

I can't believe how high priced all this art is!

Yes, I charge top dollar, and yet I undersell the Warner Brothers Studio Store by about 300%!





My God, Joketh, what are you doing with that gun!

I want to prove dad's a true superhero! I want to see if he survives if I shoot him!

Are you crazy? That's a water pistol! You know about him and water! It will kill him in a second! If you wanna use a gun, play it safe! His .38 service revolver's in the closet!

I can't leave you alone! There are too many dissimilarities in our lives! Don't you see all the non-connections? Your bones don't break, mine do! You don't get sick, I do! You don't get HBO, I do! You don't put your socks on with Krazy Glue, I do! You don't have these excruciatingly long, boring speeches, I do! We are connected by our unconnectedness!

Hmmm...I see your point! You have real acting skills! I don't! We're on the same curve, just at opposite ends! Or to put it another way, we're at opposite ends of the same curve! You're not as stupid as I thought!

I've decided to start using my mind and my strength to help others in distress! Mostly in flashbacks where I don't have to get too involved!

And have those sad feelings you said you had in the morning gone away?

They have!
Then I gave you good advice!

Actually, my wife gave me the good advice! She said having a fifth of scotch every night would catch up with me the next morning! I stopped, and the sad feelings vanished!

It wasn't the Scotch, you idiot! It was the water you took as a chaser! Remember? Water is your Achilles' Heel! Drink all the Scotch you want, but no water!

What are all these diplomas on your wall? A Degree in Fire Arts! A Masters in Sabotage! A Doctorate in Train Wrecks? YOU caused that train wreck!

Yes, and thanks to you, I've found my real self! When I set an office building on fire, I said to myself, "is that an all right thing to do?" When I planted a bomb aboard a plane, I wondered, "am I being a bad sport?" But when I caused that train wreck and met you, I realized that I'm "no more Mr. Nice Guy!" Can you forgive me?

Never! I'm turning you in, and you're going to jail!

Oh really?
Says who?

Says me! "Security Man!" The caped crusader who fights evil and arch villains, no matter where they hide! Today, a crime fighter! Tomorrow, a comic book hero!

Please! I may split my sides laughing! Oh my God, I DID split my sides laughing! Ahhhh!



HOOPS! THEY DID IT AGAIN DEPT.

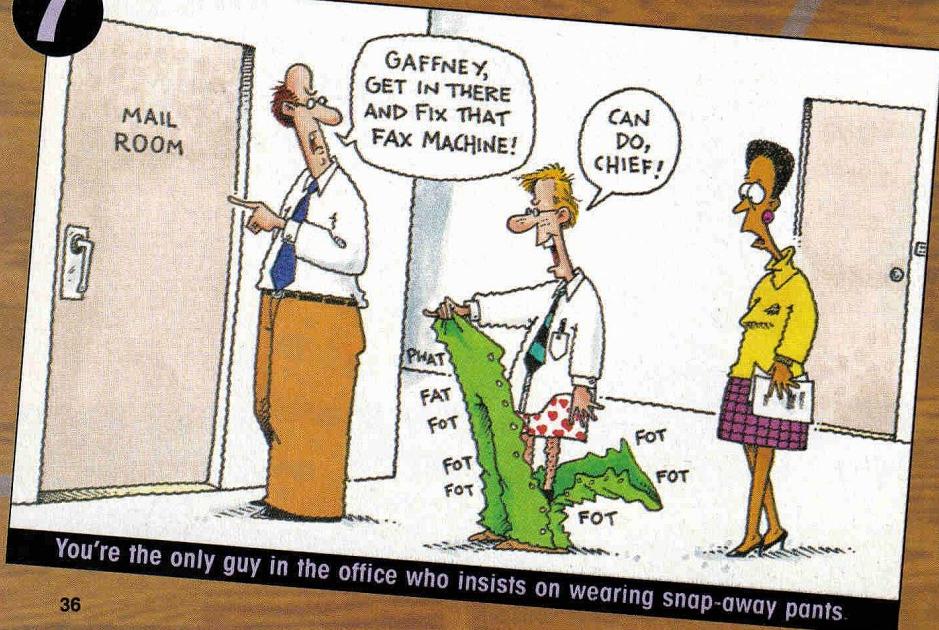
It starts with 64...
then there's 32...
then 16...
then 8...

until it's finally down to just four survivors!
Some new cheesy, *Big Brother* rip-off CBS
reality show? Perhaps! But we're talking about
America's inexplicable obsession with the college
basketball tournament! How about you? Are you
addicted to hardwood? Maybe you recognize all of the...

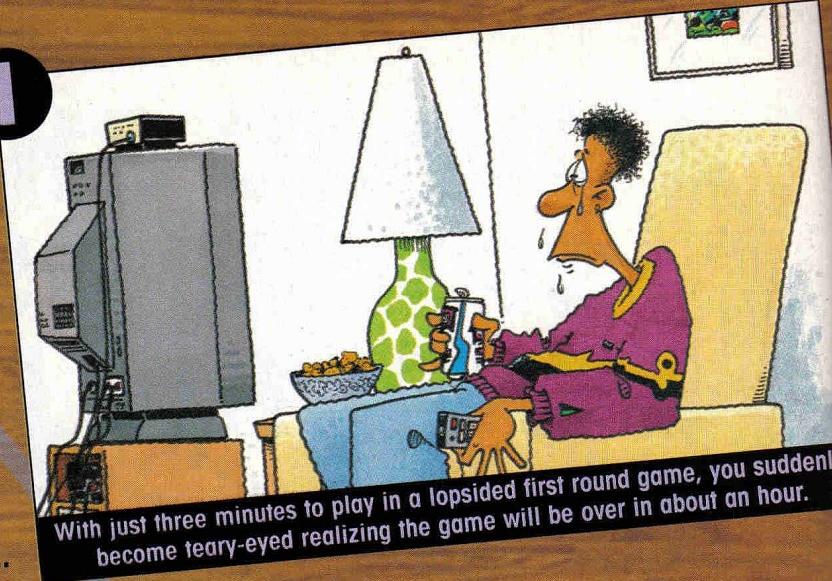
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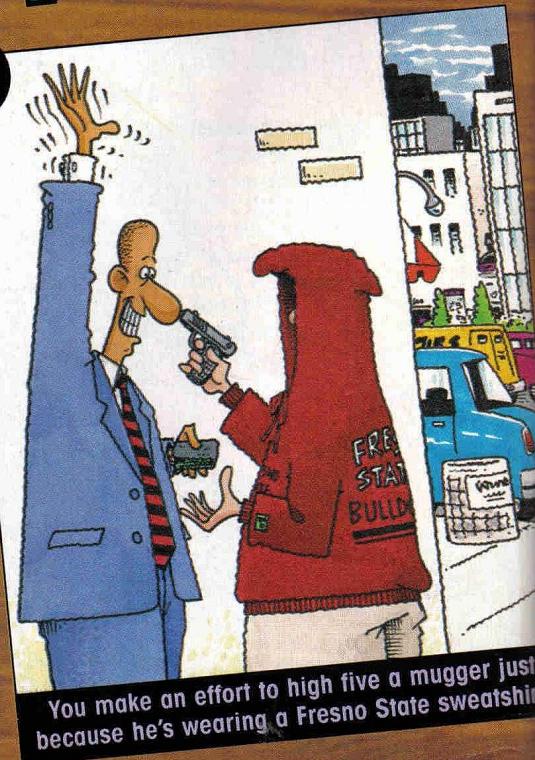


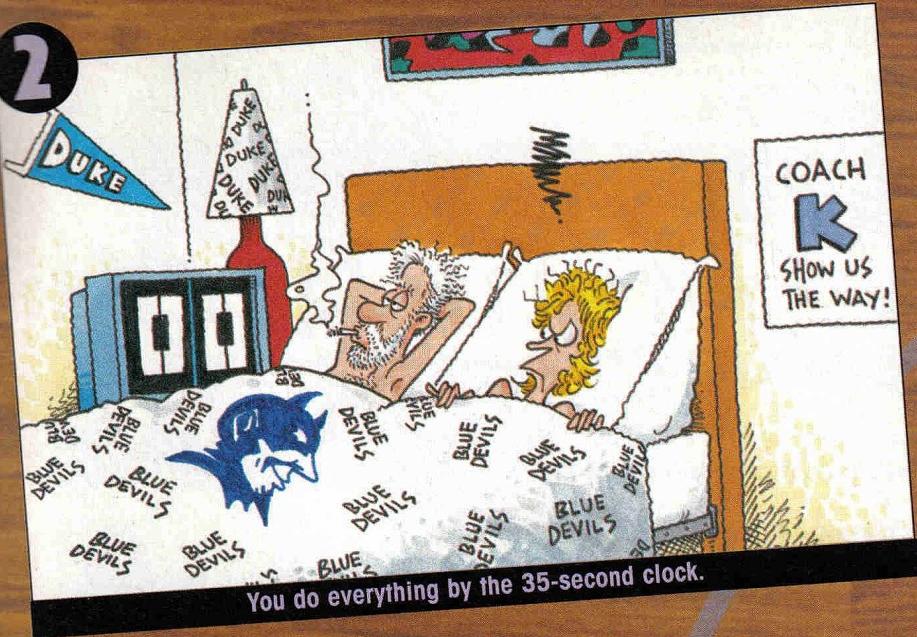
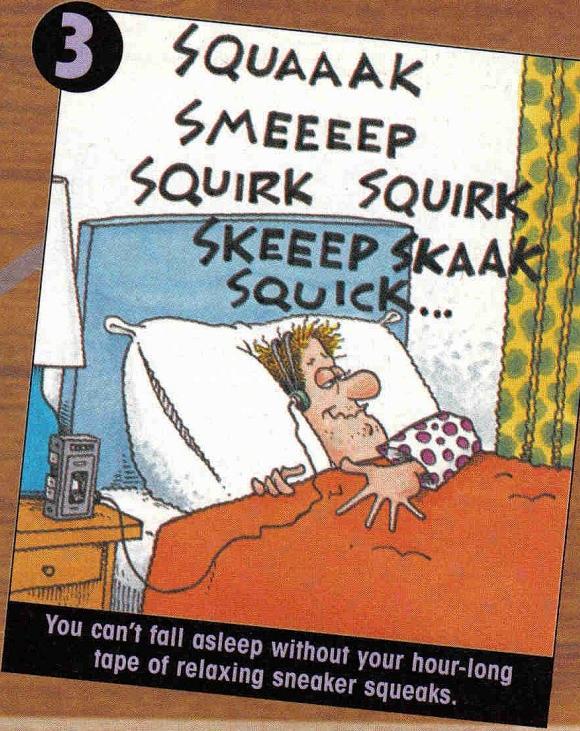
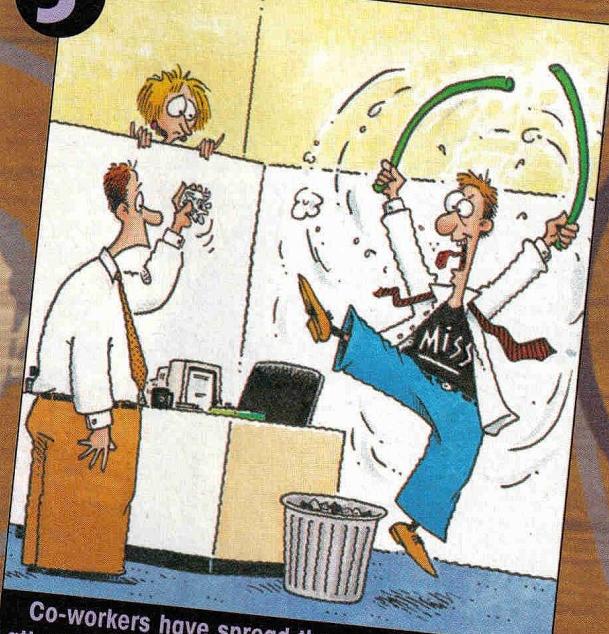
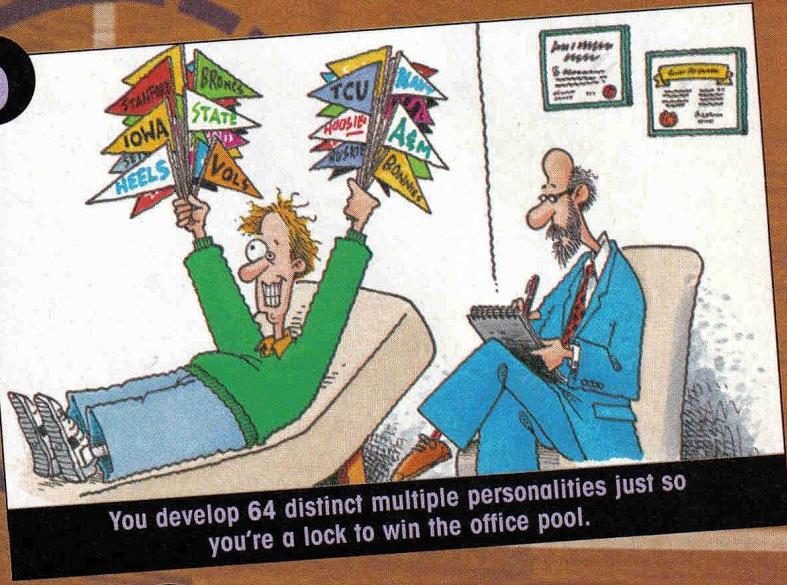
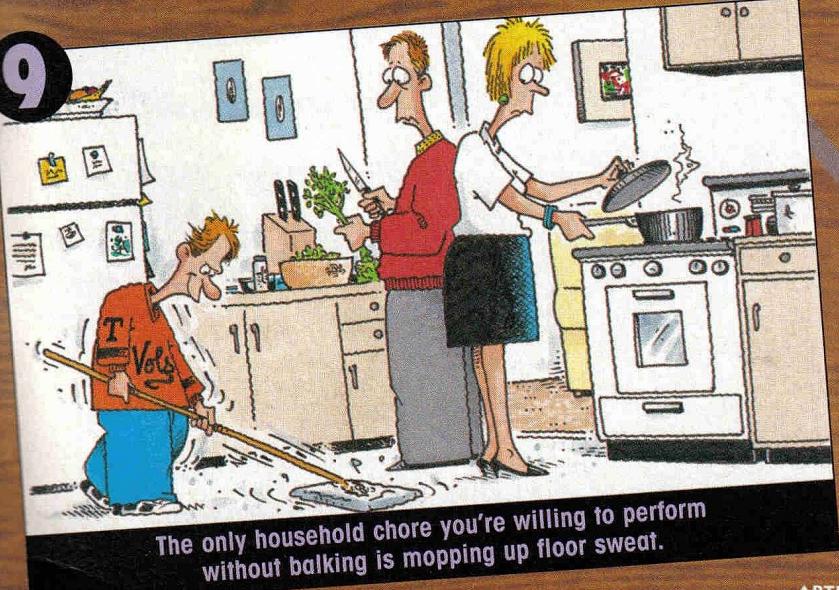
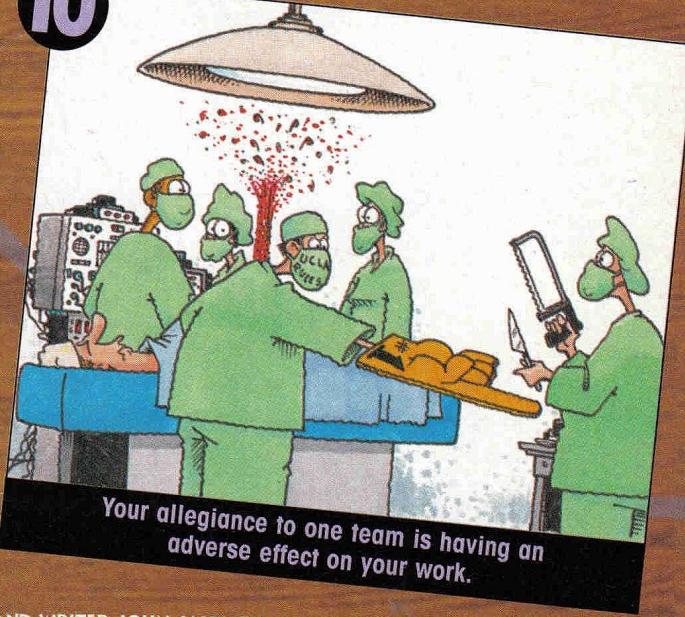
1



10 SURE SIGNS YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM MARCH MADNESS

8



2**3****5****6****9****10**



GRIEVING LAS VEGAS DEPT.

MAD's CELEBRITY CAUSE-OF-DEATH BETTING ODDS

Our team of crack oddsmakers gives you the latest Vegas line on how one of today's biggest stars will join Tupac and Biggie in the 'Hood-after!

THIS MONTH'S FUTURE REAL DEAD SLIM SHADY:

DETROIT

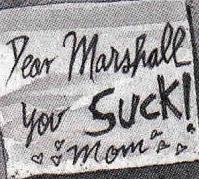
EMINEM

CAUSE OF DEATH

Killed by offended and angered...

ODDS

- ...wife 1:1
- ...mother 1:1
- ...gay person 1:1
- ...black person 1:1
- ...feminist 1:1

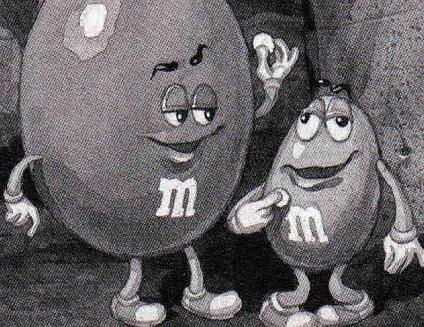
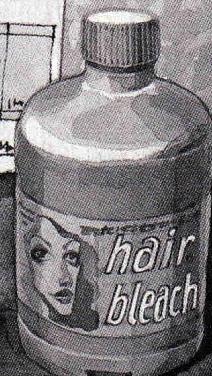


Killed by offended and angered fan of...

- ...Christina Aguilera 1:1
- ...Britney Spears 1:1
- ...'N Sync 1:1

Killed in incident completely unrelated to his music, lyrics or life

35,000,000:1





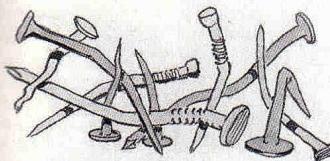
THE DEPTHS OF REPAIR DEPT.

Our Guarantee

If You Find a Lower Price Anywhere Else, So What?

\$9

Box of 100



Pre-Bent Nails

Why pay extra for straight nails when you've botched every hammer job you've tried since 1987? Bent at a variety of angles for your convenience, these light-weight, aluminum nails are ideal for gluing onto cardboard and paper. (Not recommended for use with wood.)

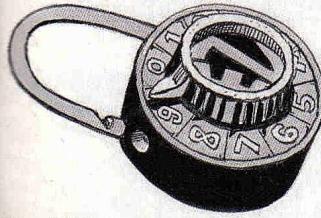
\$9



Murderous-Gro Fertilizer

Perfect for making homemade bombs and other explosive devices. The choice of terrorists around the globe! Not recommended for tomato plants.

\$12



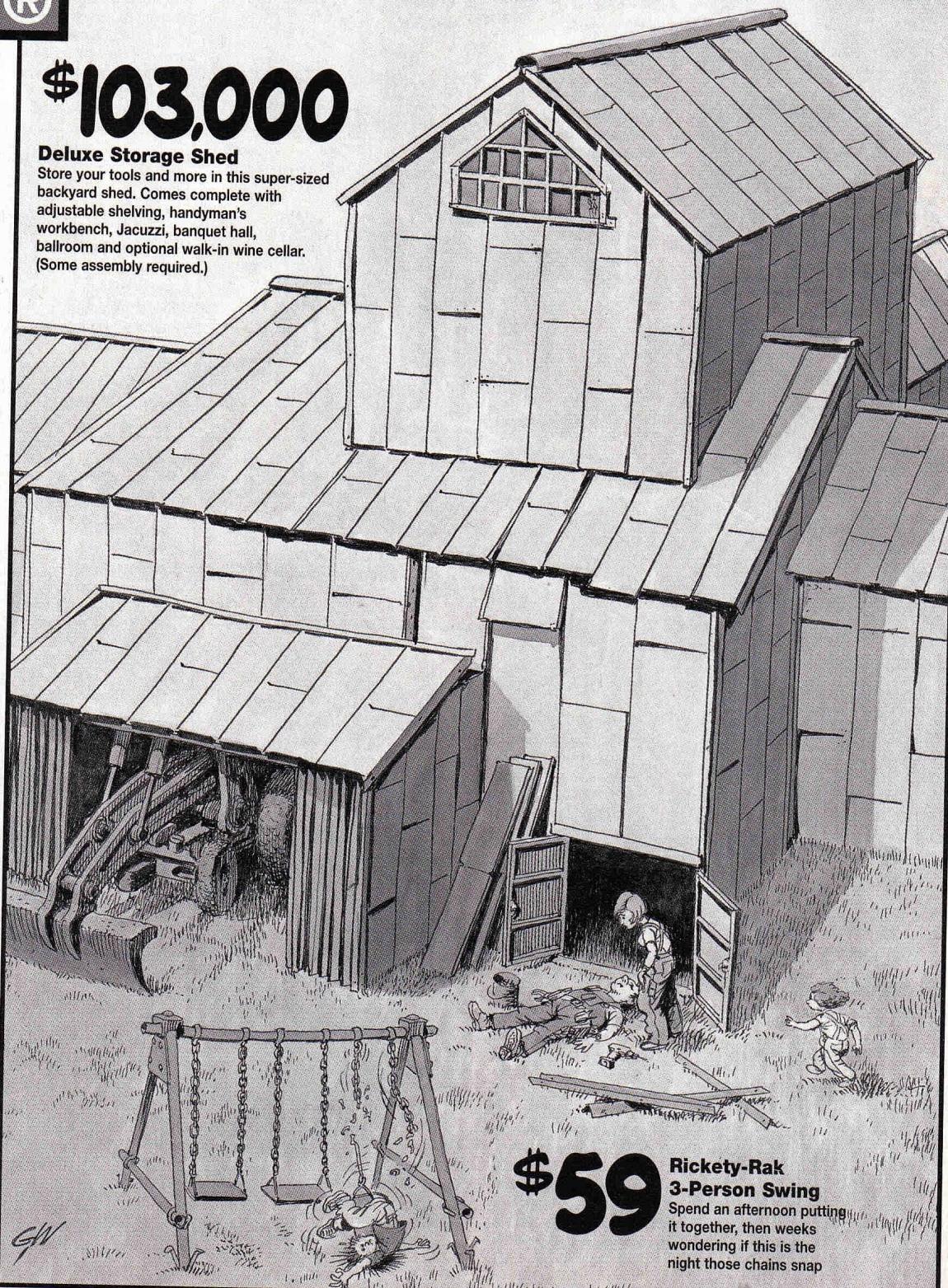
The Ultimate EZ-Lock™

You'll never forget your combination again with the new Ultimate EZ-Lock™ from Crapperco! With the advanced one-turn-in-any-direction-to-any-number method, opening your lock is now a snap, both for you and everyone else. (Please Note: Manufacturer not responsible for stolen property.)

\$103,000

Deluxe Storage Shed

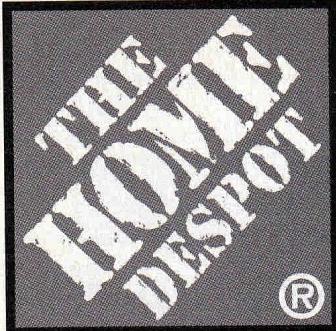
Store your tools and more in this super-sized backyard shed. Comes complete with adjustable shelving, handyman's workbench, Jacuzzi, banquet hall, ballroom and optional walk-in wine cellar. (Some assembly required.)



\$59

Rickety-Rak 3-Person Swing

Spend an afternoon putting it together, then weeks wondering if this is the night those chains snap.



\$4

Work Area Signs

DANGER!
STOPPING TO
READ THIS SIGN
INCREASES THE
CHANCE OF A STEEL
BEAM FALLING ON
YOU BY 87%

WARNING!
WOMEN PASSING
HERE MAY BE SUBJECT
TO OBSCENE GESTURES,
VULGAR LIP SMACKING
AND RUDE COMMENTS
ABOUT THE SIZE
OF THEIR
BUTTOCKS

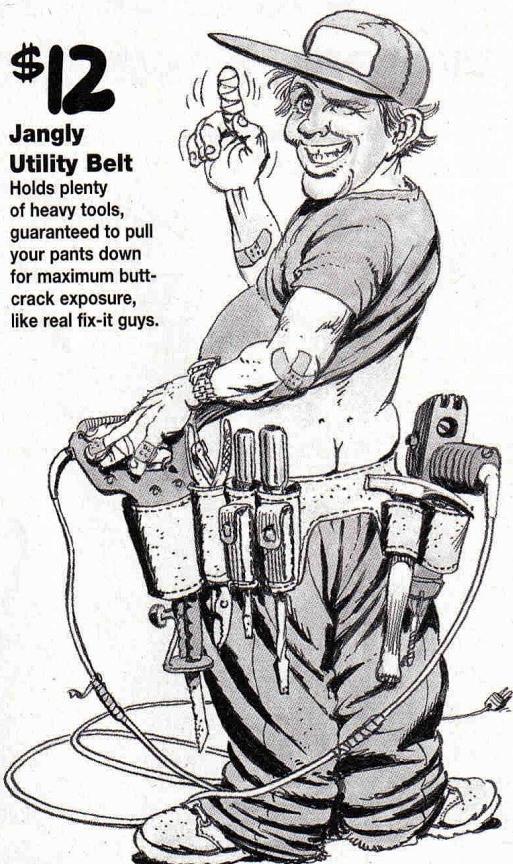
THINK!
ABOUT HOW
WEIRD IT IS THAT
"FLAMMABLE" MEANS
THE SAME THING AS
"INFLAMMABLE"

Supplies For the Stubborn Handyman of the House Who Just Refuses to Acknowledge He Doesn't Know What He's Doing!

\$12

Jangly Utility Belt

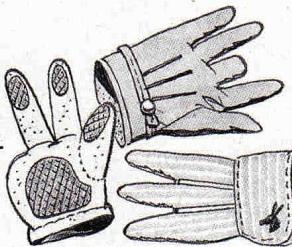
Holds plenty of heavy tools, guaranteed to pull your pants down for maximum butt-crack exposure, like real fix-it guys.



\$6 /PAIR

Work Gloves

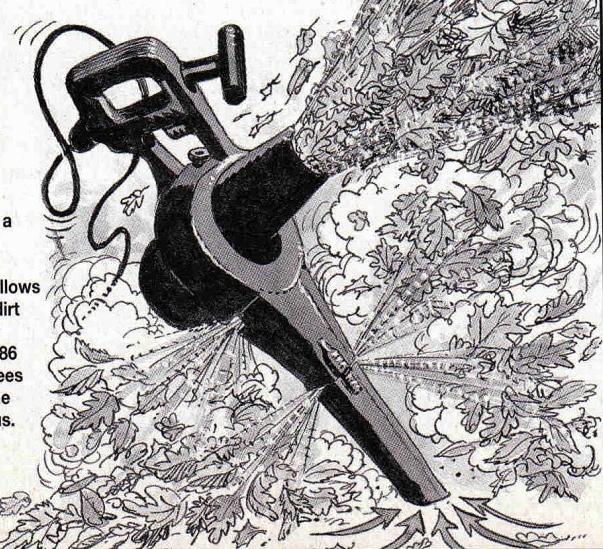
You name the number of remaining fingers — we have the glove for you! Available in Medium, Large and Stumpy.



\$47

Annoy-A-Lot Leaf Blower

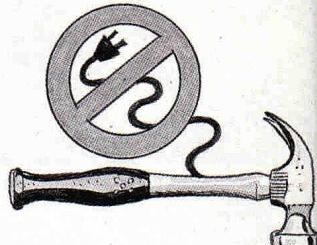
Notice it's called a "leaf blower" and not a "leaf remover" or a "leaf picker-upper." Three-speed option allows you to spray leaves, dirt and branches in 132 different directions. 486 decibel level guarantees you'll disturb everyone within a 30-mile radius. (Protective ear-wear sold separately.)



\$17

Cordless Hammer

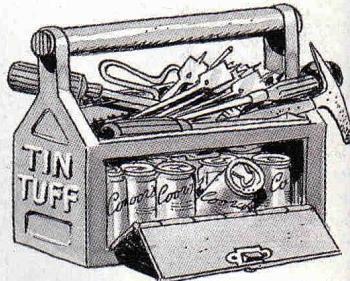
How many times have you wished you could hammer a nail without having that annoying cord get in the way? Well, here's your answer! From the makers of the cordless extension cord.



\$9

Tin-Tuff Fake Toolbox

Realistic-looking "toolbox" is actually a cooler. You can appear to be hard at work when, in fact, you are drinking the day away! Holds approx. 24 cans.



\$144

Pocket Lawnmower

Now you can trim your lawn blade-by-blade with Swiss Army precision-cutting just like the professionals! Starts without the strenuous yanking required in conventional mowers. No gasoline required.

Thumb-Operated
Forward/Reverse
Handle

\$24

415-Outlet Strip

Maximize your electrical output!

Now you can conveniently operate 415 of your favorite household appliances at a time, or one device that requires 45,650 volts.

Approximately 17 feet long. UL Unapproved.



\$3/BOX

Bonsai Tree Lumber

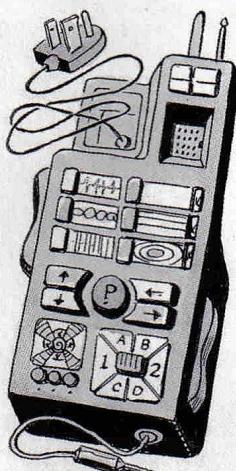
Finally, an alternative to those cumbersome and hard-to-store Popsicle sticks! Choose from 1", 2" or 2.5" beams. An excellent choice for building matchboxes and all your minuscule construction needs.



\$24

Downspout Stabilizing Gauge

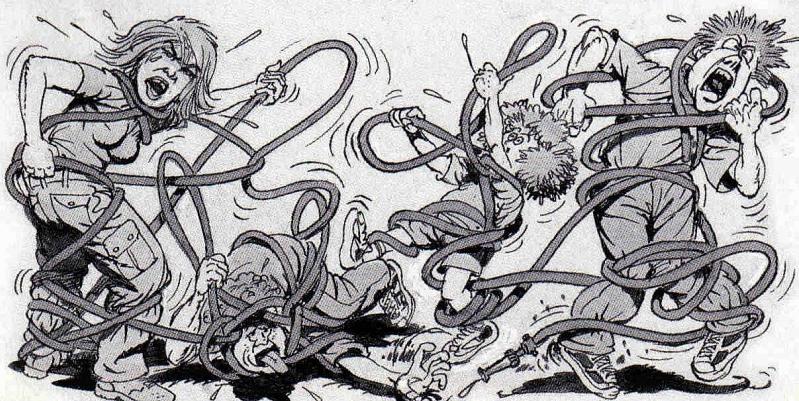
Dual quad, forged bow with variable speed swivel diverter. Galvanized nipple valve allows for easy electro-flo and tval lock readings. High tension flanges prevent spillage. Actual use unknown, though it sounds impressive. From the makers of Rumbaflex!



\$19

Snag-A-Hose

80 ft. of tangled-up frustration and fun for the whole family! Takes at least four hours and three people to straighten out or your money back! Automatically re-tangles after each use.



\$5

Half-Filled Paint Cans

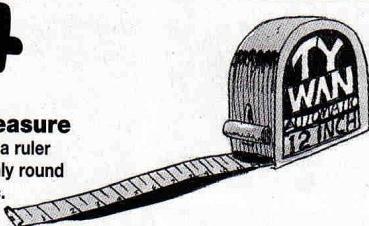
Just like the ones sitting in your garage this very minute, only for half the price! (Encrusted Paint Brushes \$1.95 ea.)



\$14

12-Inch Tape Measure

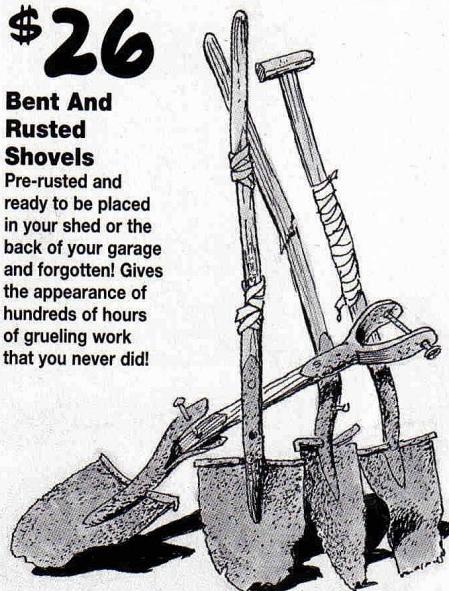
Like having a ruler with you, only round and metallic.



\$26

Bent And Rusted Shovels

Pre-rusted and ready to be placed in your shed or the back of your garage and forgotten! Gives the appearance of hundreds of hours of grueling work that you never did!



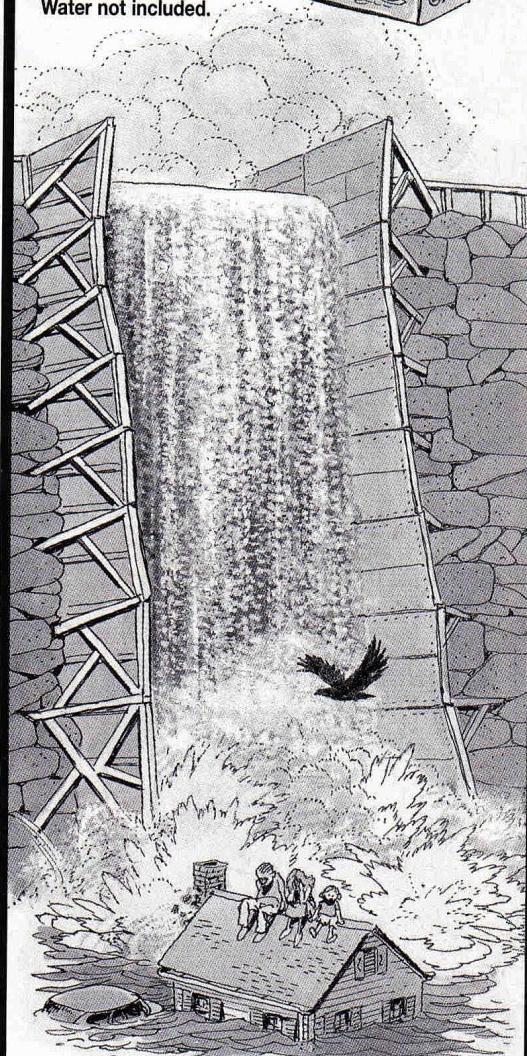
OUR UNCONDITIONAL RETURN POLICY

Return Any Item To Us In Perfect Condition And We Will Get All Of Our Money Back From The Manufacturer!

Guaranteed!

Life-Size Waterfall Kit

Forget about those wimpy front lawn jobs. This E-Z to assemble 147-square acre cascade will provide you and your family with a breathtaking conversation piece. Water not included.



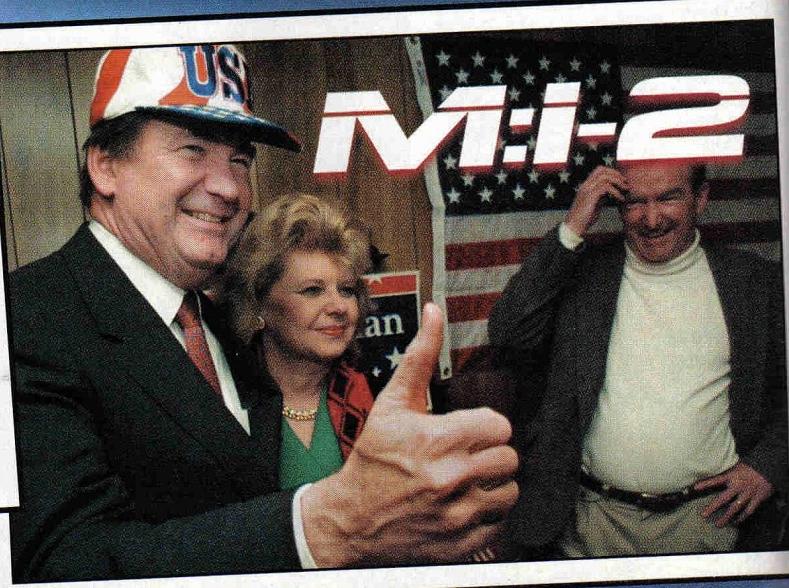
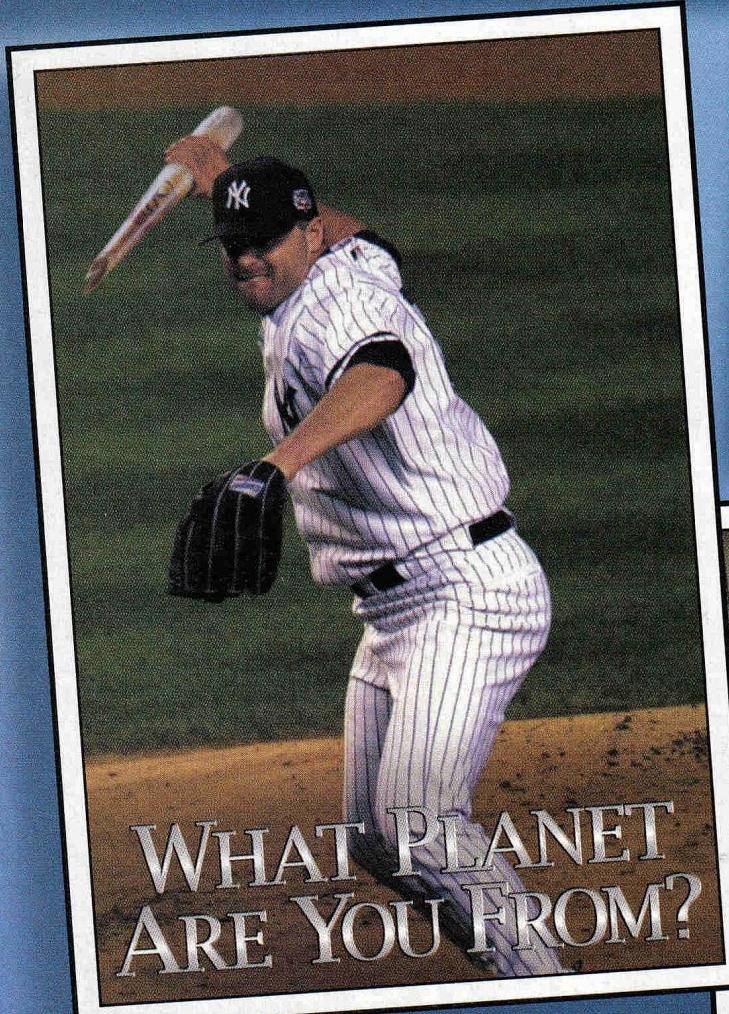
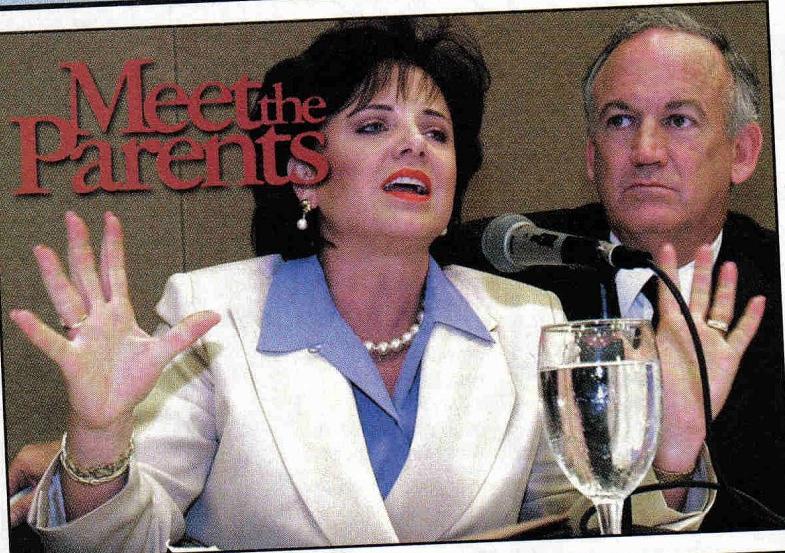
\$20,500,000



TITLE WAVE DEPT.

Hollywood released over 600 movies last year, several of them without Ben Stiller! No sane person could possibly see them all. Luckily, lots of things happened in real life (remember that?) during the past twelve months that reminded us of the titles of some of the movies we skipped. Why that's lucky, we don't know, but you might figure it out as you review...

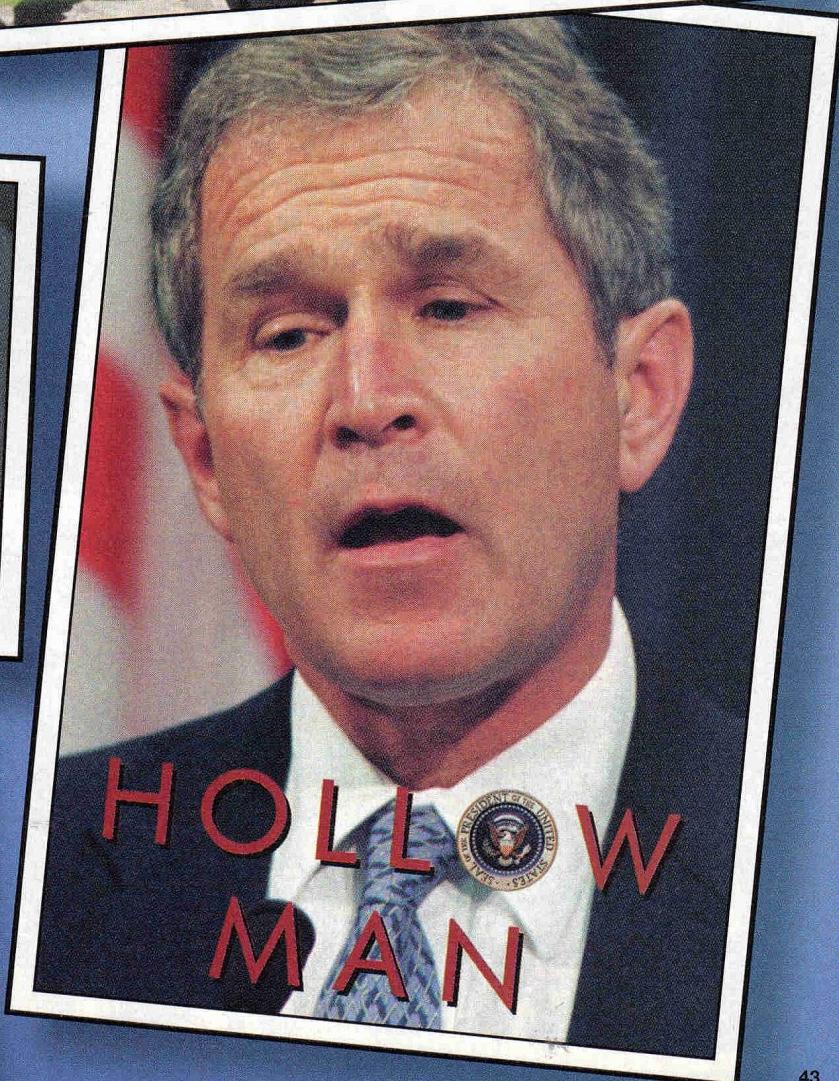
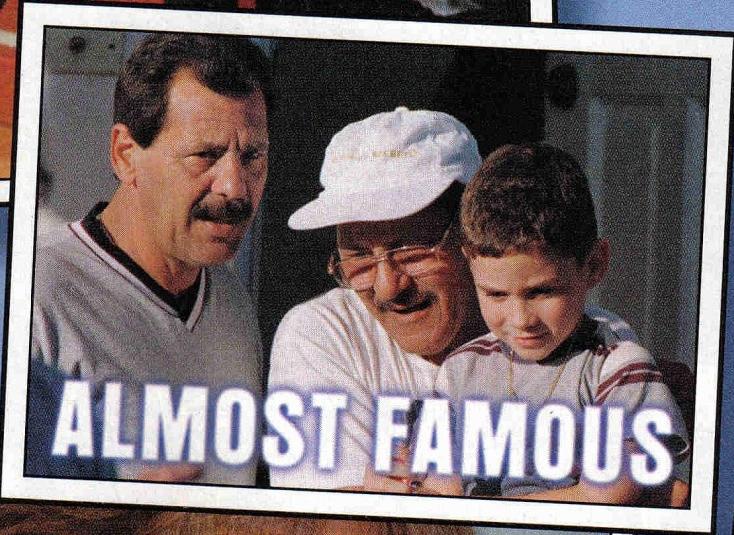
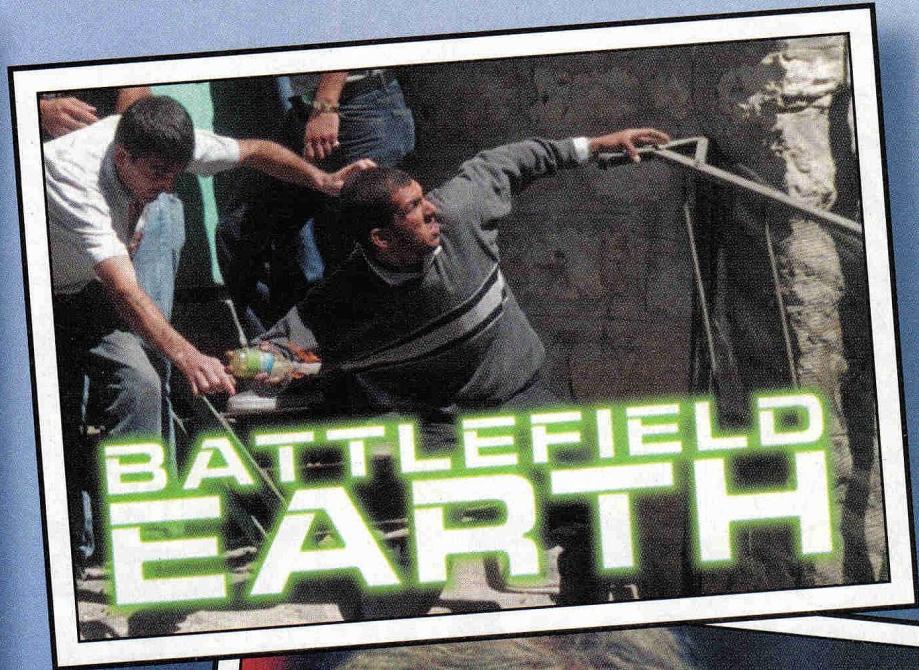
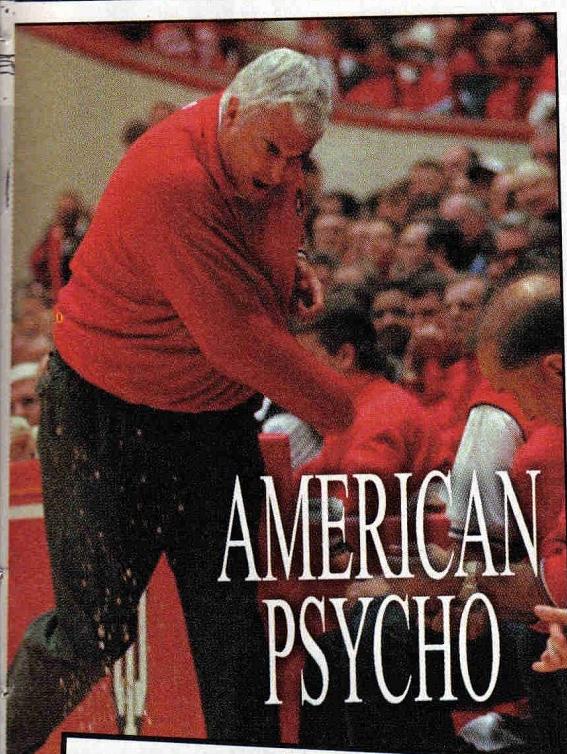
2000:



WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN

PHOTOS: AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

THE YEAR IN FILM





CLOTHES MINDED DEPT.

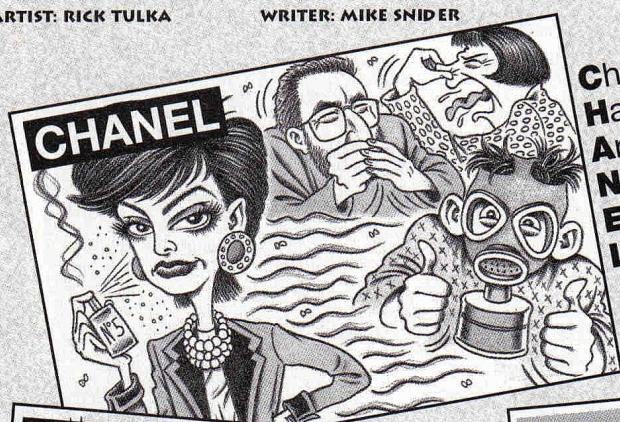
Anyone who's down with LL Cool J knows that his clothing line called **FUBU** is an acronym for "For Us, By Us." We here at MAD started poring over issues of *Vogue*, *Glamour* and *The Source* looking at other fashion names and discovered that LL isn't the only one on the acronym tip! So screw LL and get down with your MAD posse as we expose...



OTHER FASHION BRAND NAMES THAT ARE ACTUALLY ACRONYMS

ARTIST: RICK TULKA

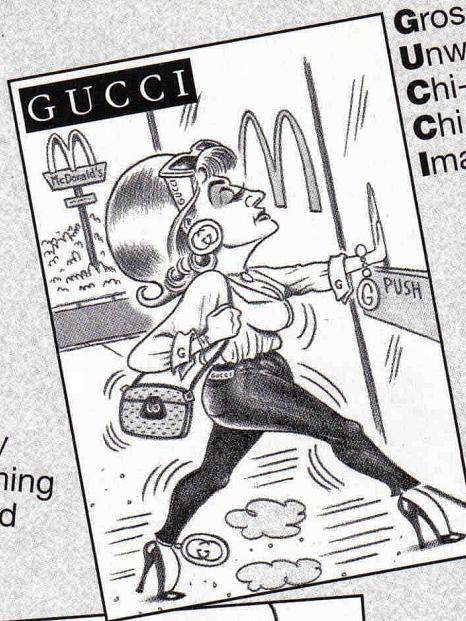
WRITER: MIKE SNIDER



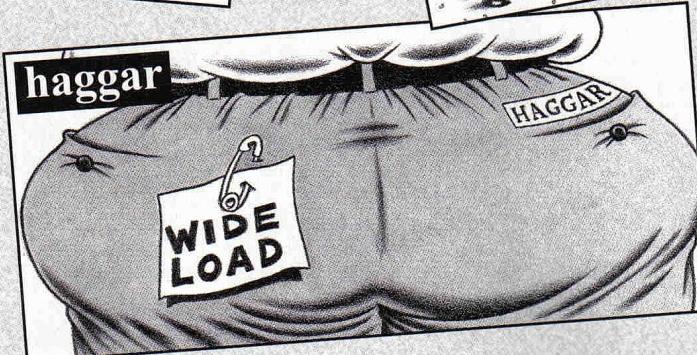
Chemically
Harsh
Aroma
Nobody's
Ever
Liked



Foot
Injury
Looming
Ahead



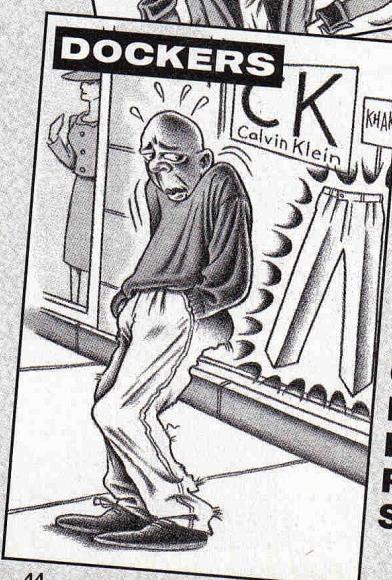
Grossly
Unwarranted
Chi-
Chi
Image



Hiding
Aging
Guys'
Guts
And
Rumps



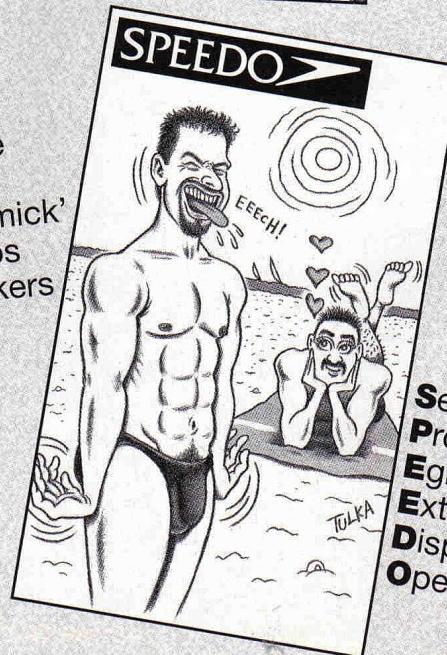
Apparel
Developed
In
Deplorable
Asian
Sweatshops



Duplicates
Of
Calvin
Kleins
Except
Really
Shoddy



Lame
'Egg
Gimmick'
Grabs
Suckers



See
Protruding
Egregious
Extremities
Displayed
Openly



CLOTHES MINDED DEPT.

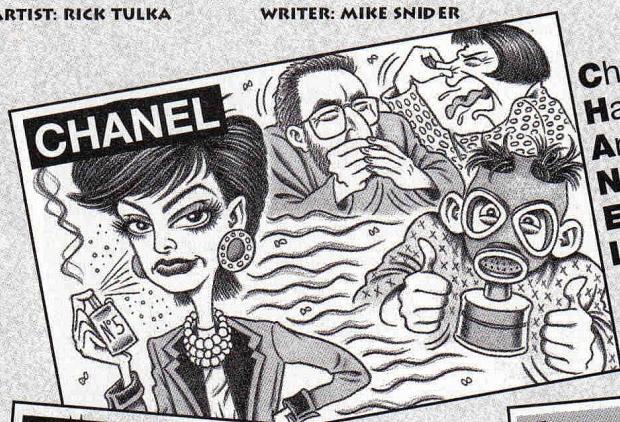
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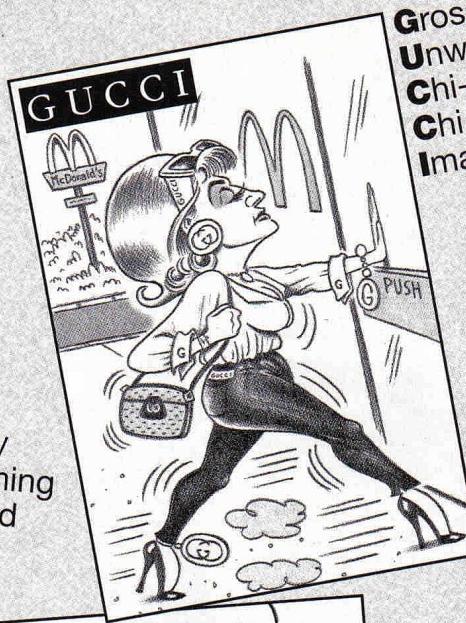
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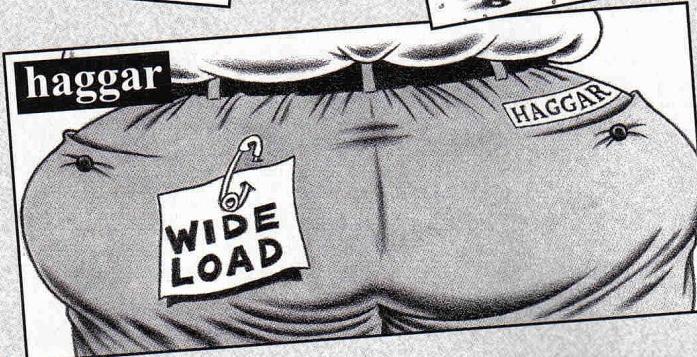
Chemically
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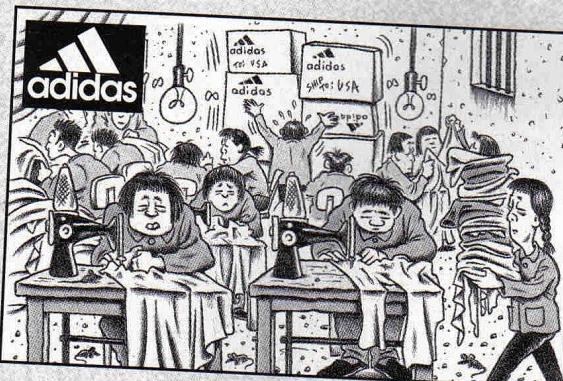
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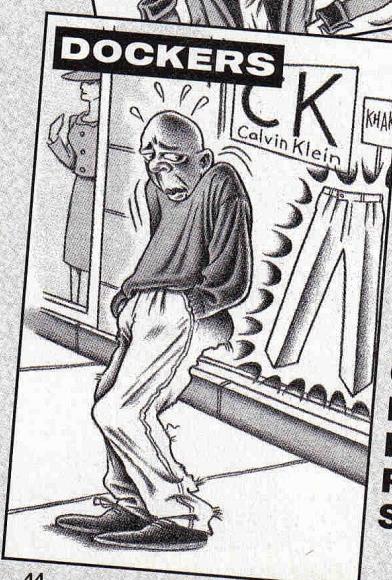
Grossly
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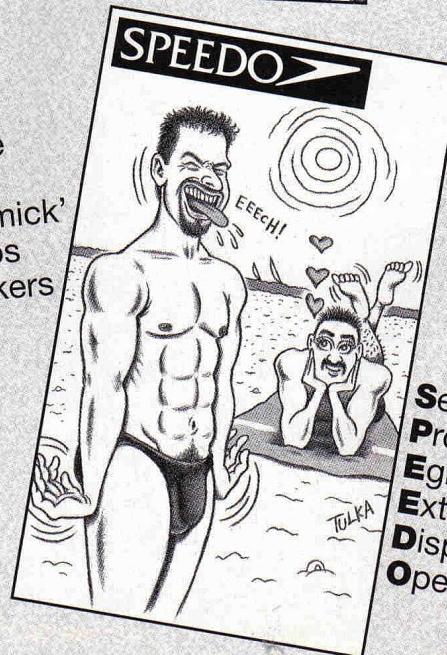
Apparel
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In
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Duplicates
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Except
Really
Shoddy



Lame
'Egg
Gimmick'
Grabs
Suckers



See
Protruding
Egregious
Extremities
Displayed
Openly



BERG'S-EYE VIEW DEPT.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF...

ELECTIONS

JUSTICE

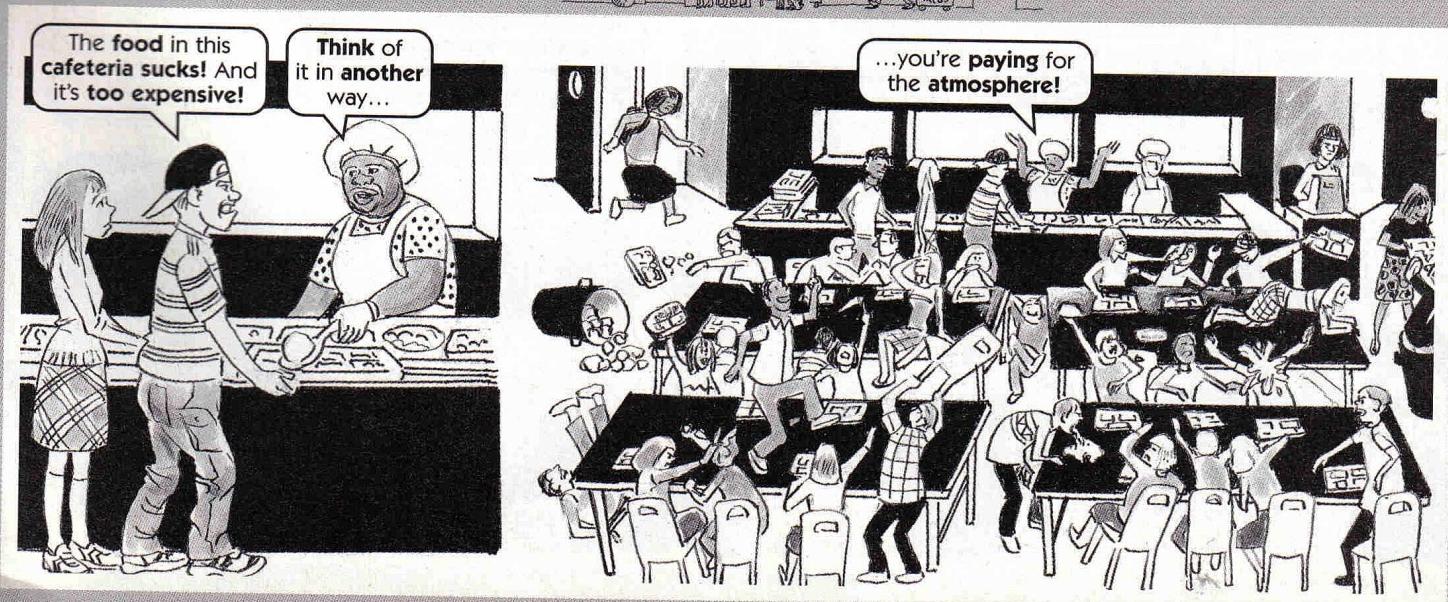
But Your Honor, I am a responsible citizen! I made sure that every gun I stole had a safety lock!



ARTIST AND WRITER: DAVE BERG



LUNCH



OFF CAMPUS LIVING

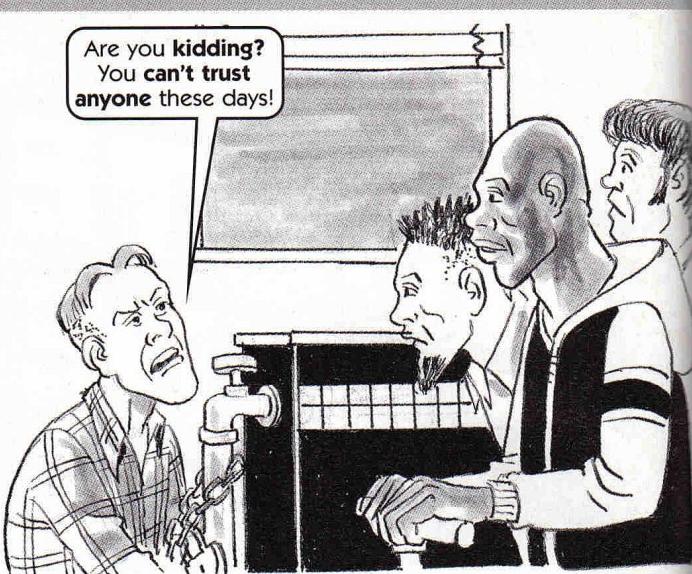
Chuck and I just swiped this great chair from Alpha Tau Omega! Isn't it a beauty?

Why are you attaching a chain to it?

STOP



Are you kidding? You can't trust anyone these days!

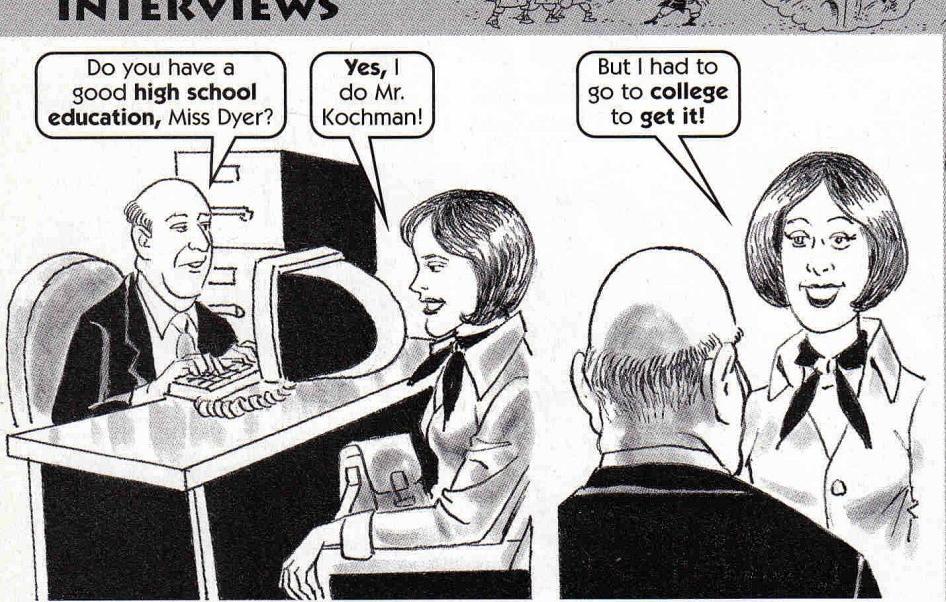


INTERVIEWS

Do you have a good high school education, Miss Dyer?

Yes, I do Mr. Kochman!

But I had to go to college to get it!



PREDICTIONS

What did the weather guy say about tomorrow?

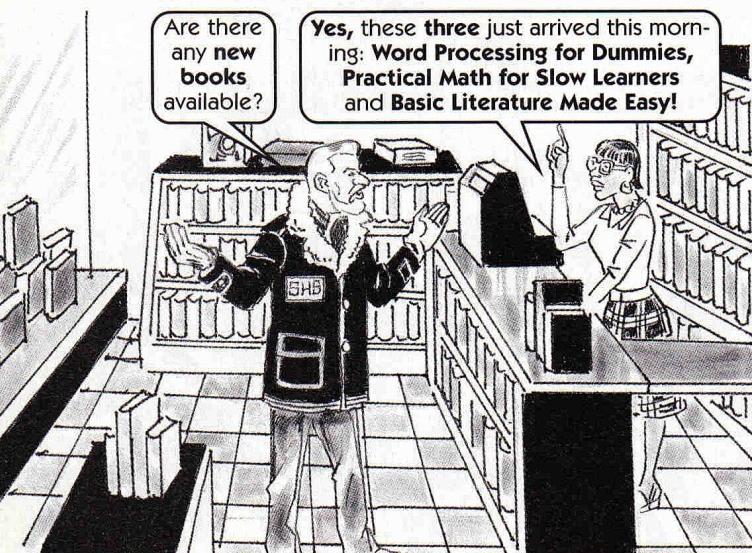
There's a fifty percent chance of rain!



READING

Are there any new books available?

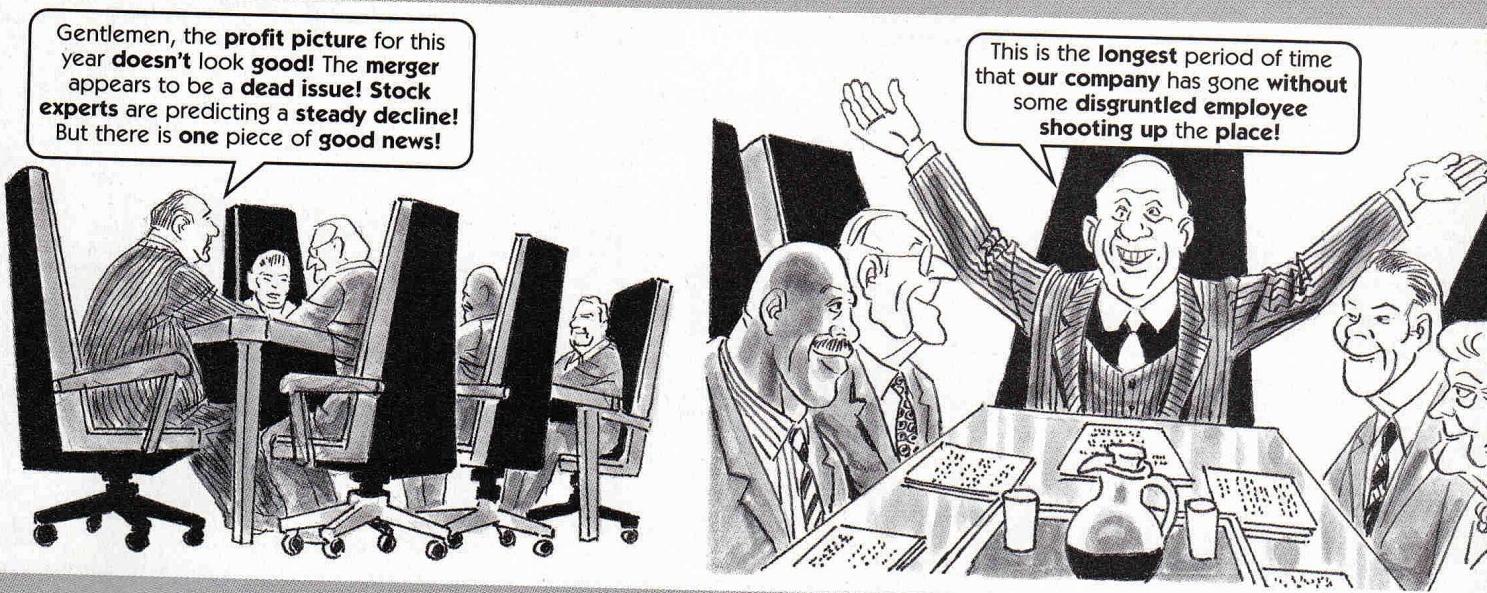
Yes, these three just arrived this morning: Word Processing for Dummies, Practical Math for Slow Learners and Basic Literature Made Easy!



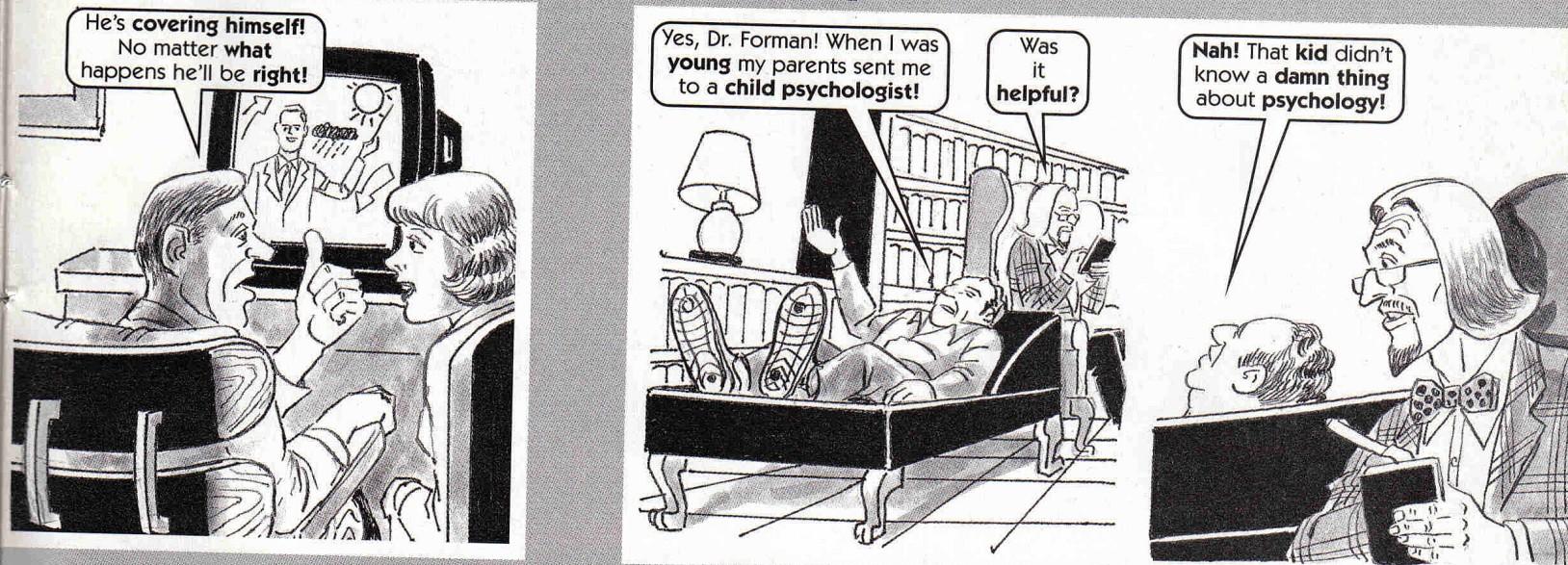
Have they stopped publishing books for smart people?



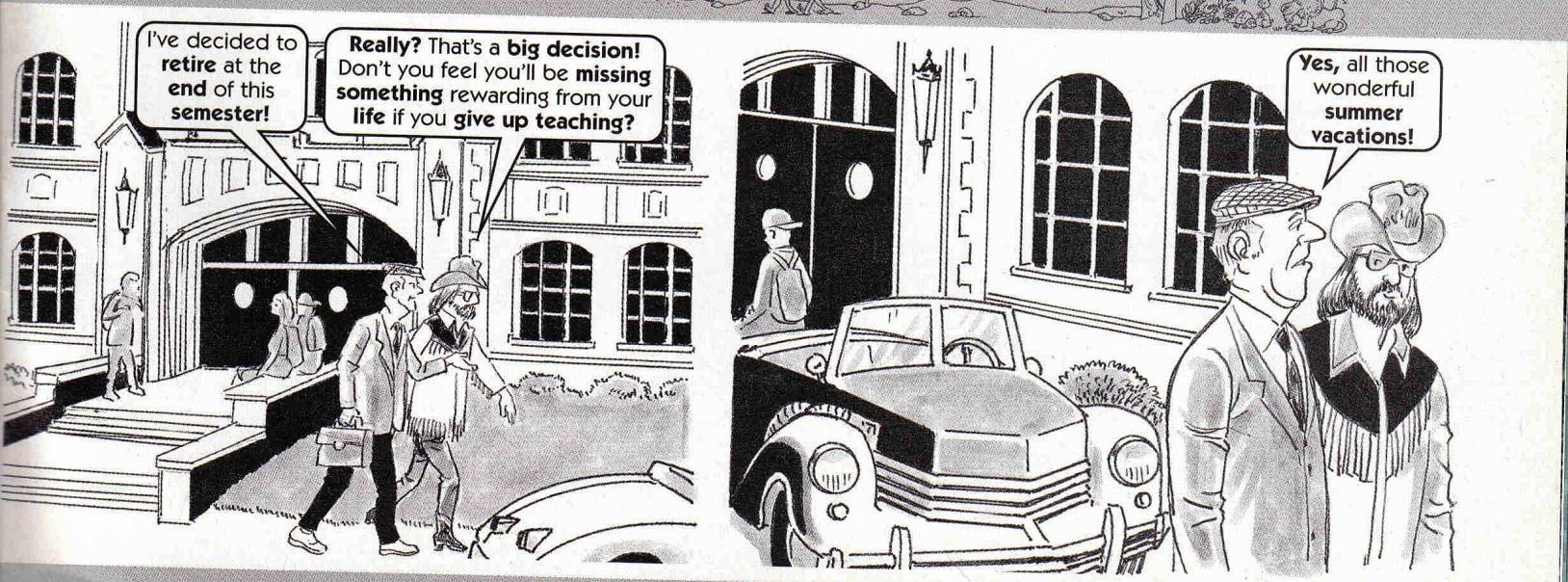
RELATIVITY



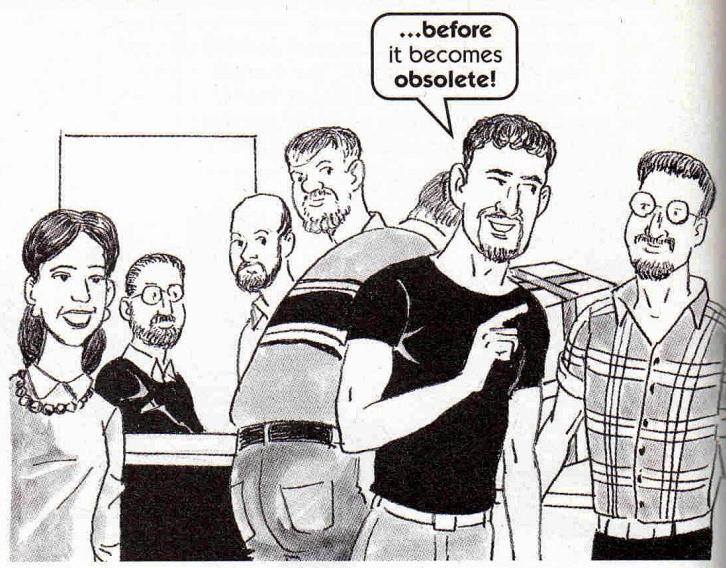
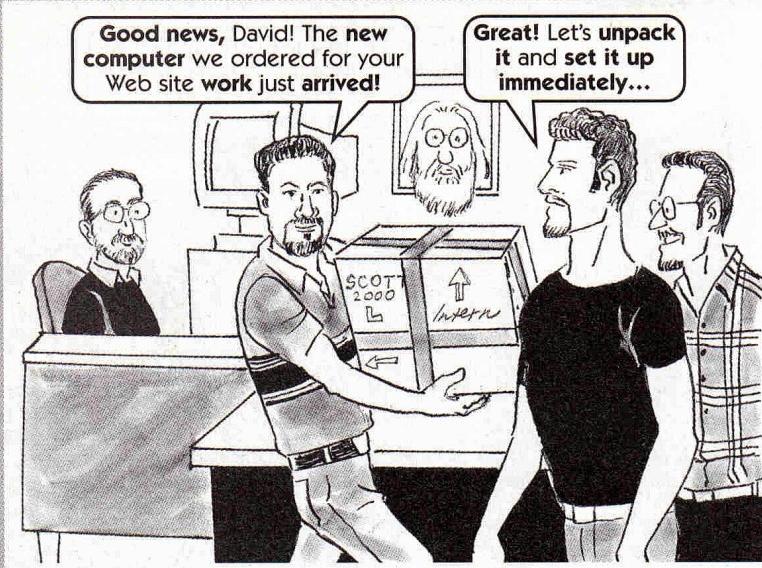
THERAPY



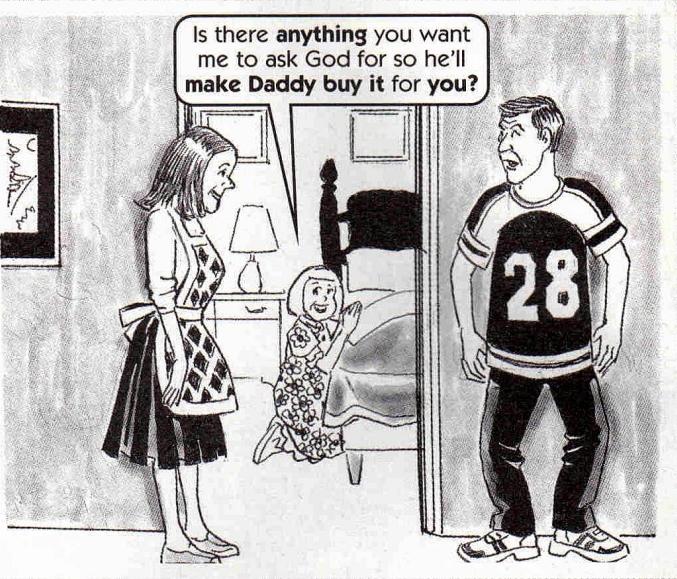
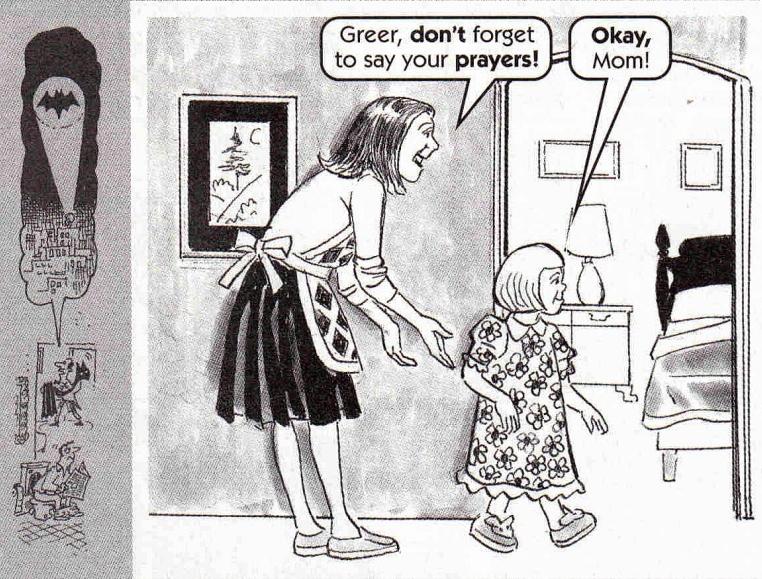
TEACHERS



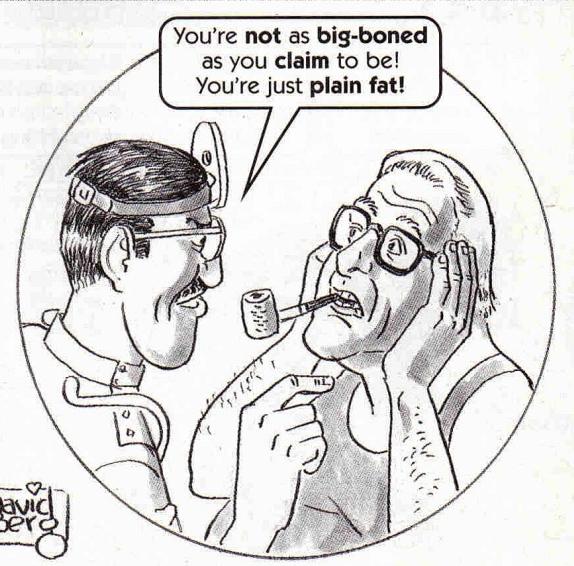
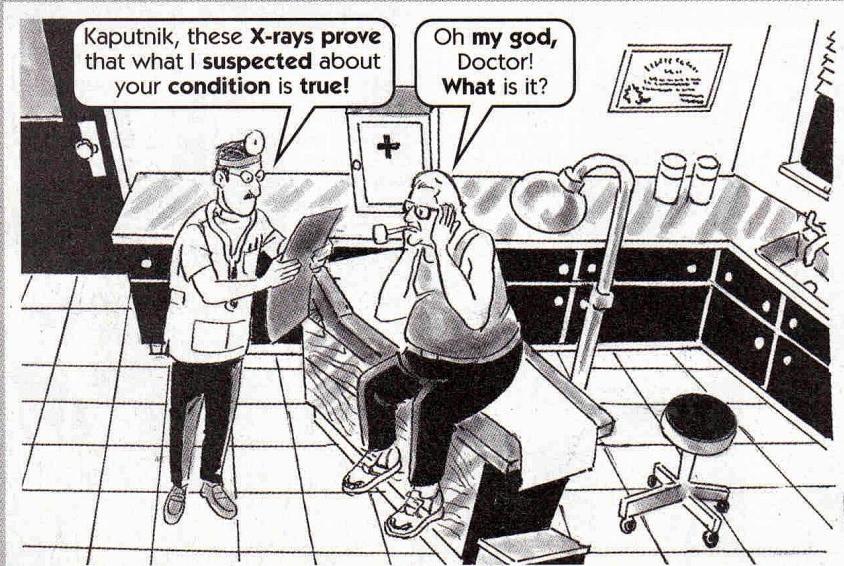
THE OFFICE



PRAYERS

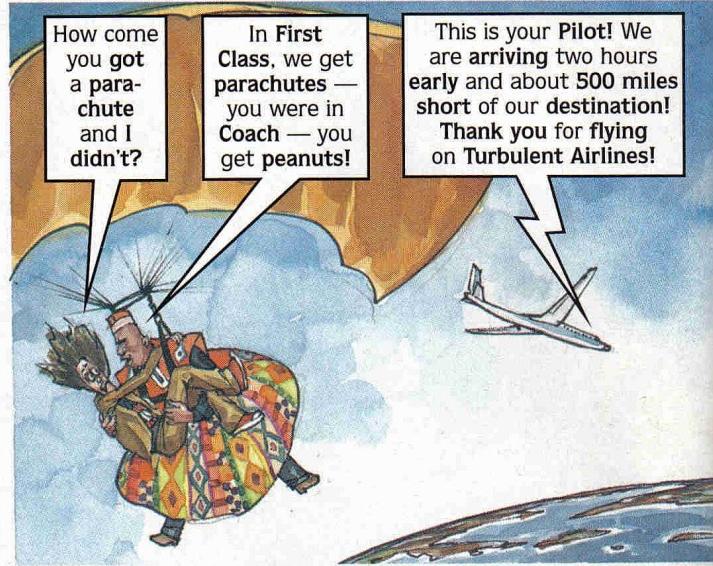


DOCTORS





Sick and tired of lame, dull TV shows being re-made into lame, dull films, which are then mocked in lame, dull movie parodies? Hoo-boy, you might want to close the magazine this very second...



Who are you?

We're Cheesy Angles! We combine a tough "can do" crime fighting spirit with a soft "do me" attitude! Forget the CIA! You're looking at T&A!

This "rip off the mask" routine is an *homage* to another TV show turned movie, *Mission Impossible*! "Homage" is the Hollywood term for "rip off the gimmick"!

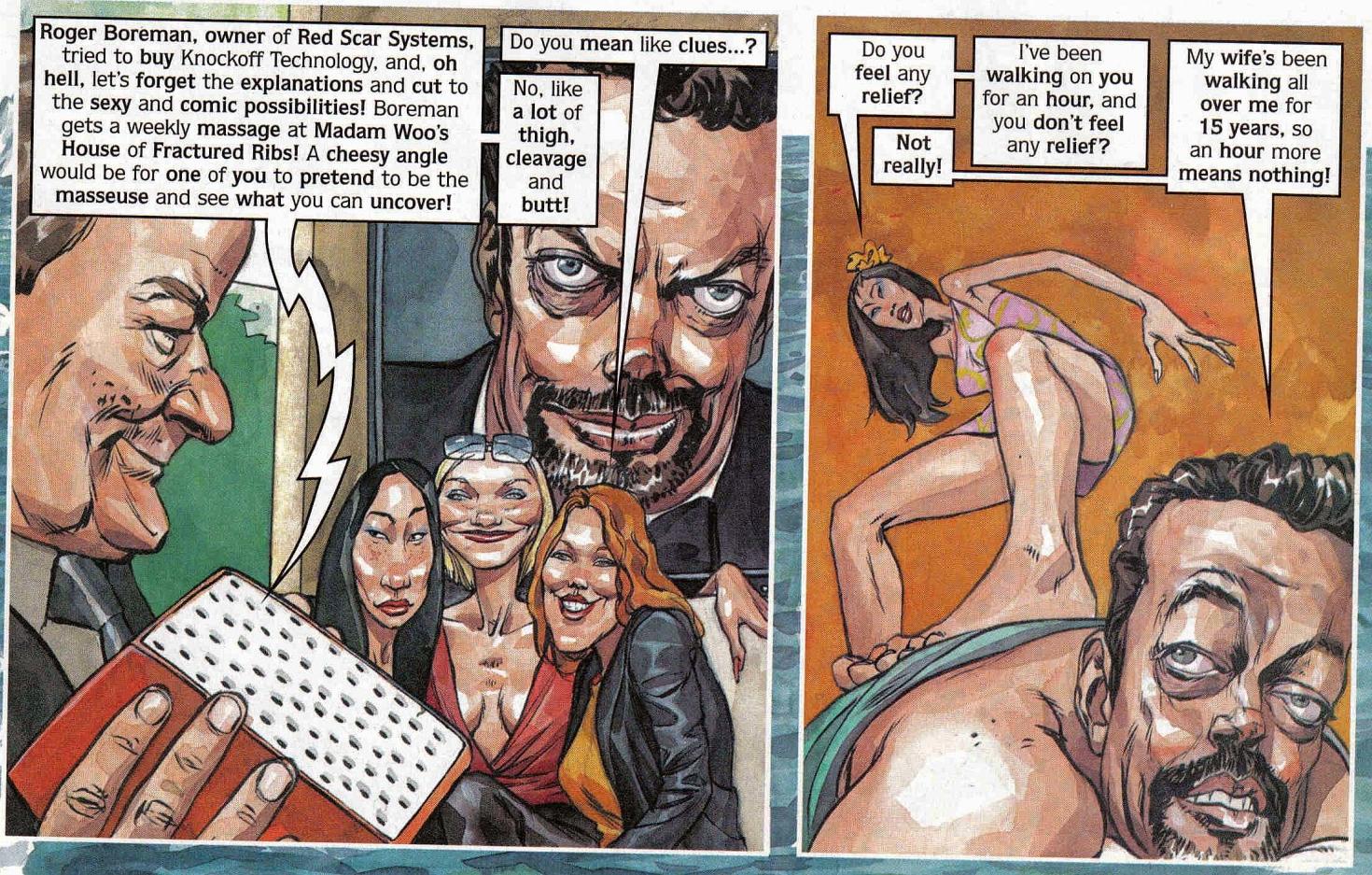
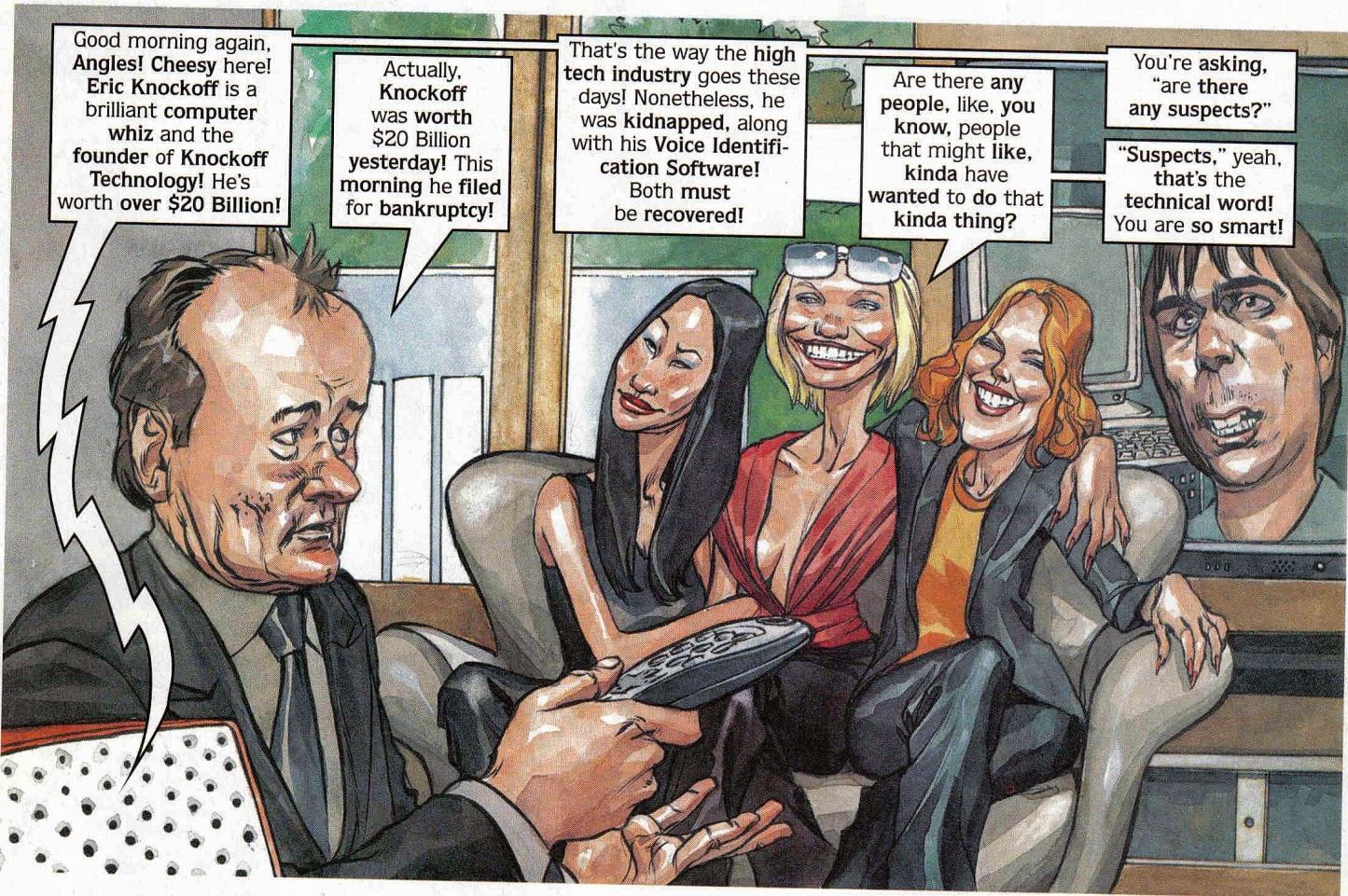
I just saved a jet plane from being blown up by a mad bomber! That's it over there! The one crashing into the ocean! Don't worry, there's no one aboard!

How can there be no one aboard?

Everyone was sucked out when I opened the door and depressurized the cabin! But they didn't suffer much! Most of them died when they hit the water! And the ones who survived that are being chopped up now by our speeding propellers!

Mornin' Angles, it's Cheesy! Come on back to the agency so I can give your next assignment! You know, for girls who don't carry guns because you abhor violence, you sure do waste a hell of a lot of people!





Good work! You stole Boreman's Palm Pilot during that hokey massage scene, found out about his party, and crashed it!

It's bad enough when people bring cell-phones to parties, but a speaker phone?

Do you like blowfish? You mean as in "Hootie"?

No, as in poison! Are you afraid of a slow, horrible death?

Not really! I took this crappy role, didn't I?

Okay, we crashed the party, what do we do now?

I see a suspicious guy at ten o'clock! Ten o'clock! Where do you look for ten o'clock? I've got a digital watch!

My God, that bad guy smokes like the bad guy chain smoker on the *X-Files*! It's another one of our "homages" to TV shows that became movies!

That guy's hard to follow in all this fog!

What fog? That's just his cigarette smoke!

Why did you sneak out the back door and leave the party?

Because I couldn't stand the dirty looks from those "holier than thou" non-smokers! But I am cutting back! I'm down to three cartons a day! I had to! My chest X-ray showed more holes than a Florida butterfly ballot!

You scum! If you hadn't led us outside, we could have been picking up hot guys at the party! Take this!

Here's one of my famous slow-motion leap kicks!

This is better than slow motion! I'm doing my special martial arts kick in print! I can hang in this MAD panel forever!

You girls should thank me! You were looking for Eric Knockoff and I led you right to him!

Oh yeah? Where is he?

He's right behind one of those three doors!

You call narrowing down the search from anywhere in the world to three doors "helpful"? Kick the scumbag some more!

Now that you're safe, Mr. Knockoff, tell us what's so important about your software!

Everyone's voice has a unique signature!

You can sign letters with your voice? Like, do you put the papers in your mouth to sign them, or what?

No, you idiot! Think of it as audio DNA! Imagine if you had someone's voice print, and a cell phone hooked to a GPS! Think of the danger!



What danger?

Well, when you used your cell phone, the person you called could discover your location!

That's not exactly a "crazed villain dominates the world" scenario!

No, but if you were sleeping with your best friend's boyfriend and you called her from his bedroom, she would know exactly where you were!

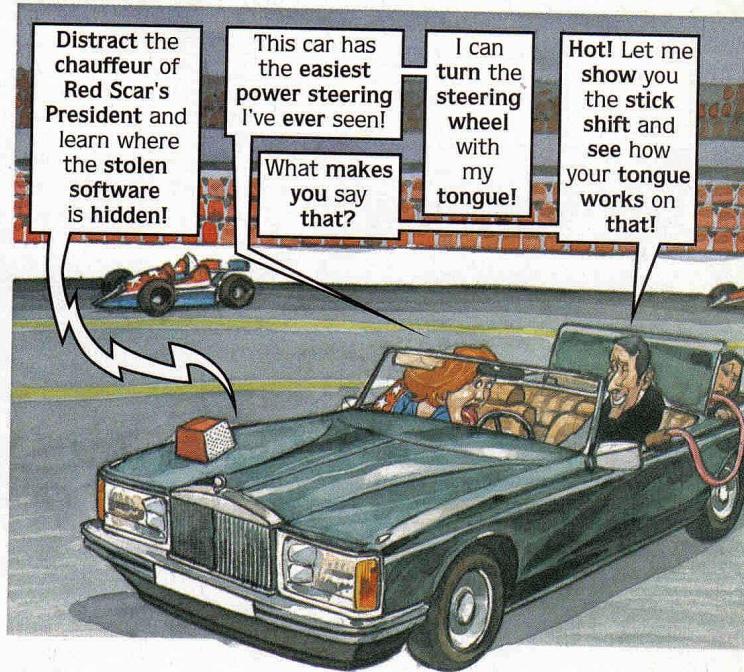
My God, it is a "crazed villain dominates the world" scenario!

Distract the chauffeur of Red Scar's President and learn where the stolen software is hidden!

This car has the easiest power steering I've ever seen!
What makes you say that?

I can turn the steering wheel with my tongue!

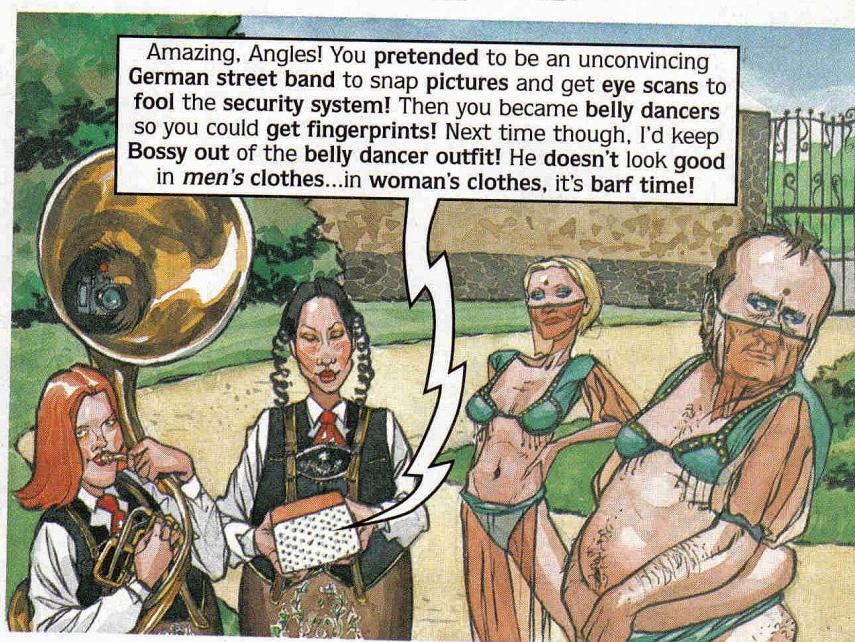
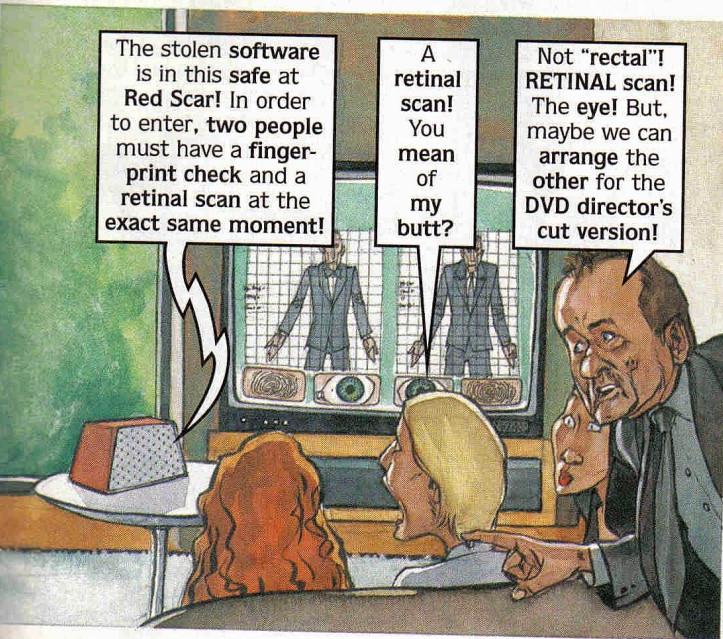
Hot! Let me show you the stick shift and see how your tongue works on that!



The stolen software is in this safe at Red Scar! In order to enter, two people must have a finger-print check and a retinal scan at the exact same moment!

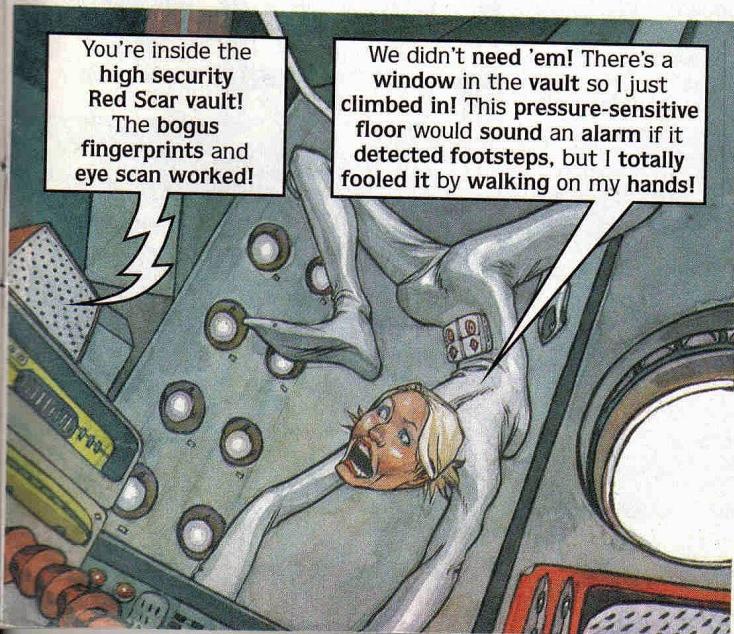
A retinal scan! You mean of my butt?

Not "rectal"! RETINAL scan! The eye! But, maybe we can arrange the other for the DVD director's cut version!



You're inside the high security Red Scar vault! The bogus fingerprints and eye scan worked!

We didn't need 'em! There's a window in the vault so I just climbed in! This pressure-sensitive floor would sound an alarm if it detected footsteps, but I totally fooled it by walking on my hands!



I'm glad you came over to see my photo collection!

How come none of the people in your pictures have heads?

It's a silly little thing I do! When people are no longer my friends, I cut their heads off!

If Lorena Bobbitt was working for you, she'd teach you a frightening variation!



Good job recovering the software! Now hand it over, or I'll kill you!

Oh, I get it — this is a set-up! You used us to steal the software for you!

Exactly! It's one of the few plot points in this movie that kinda makes sense!

And what would your partner say if she knew about your semi-clever scam?

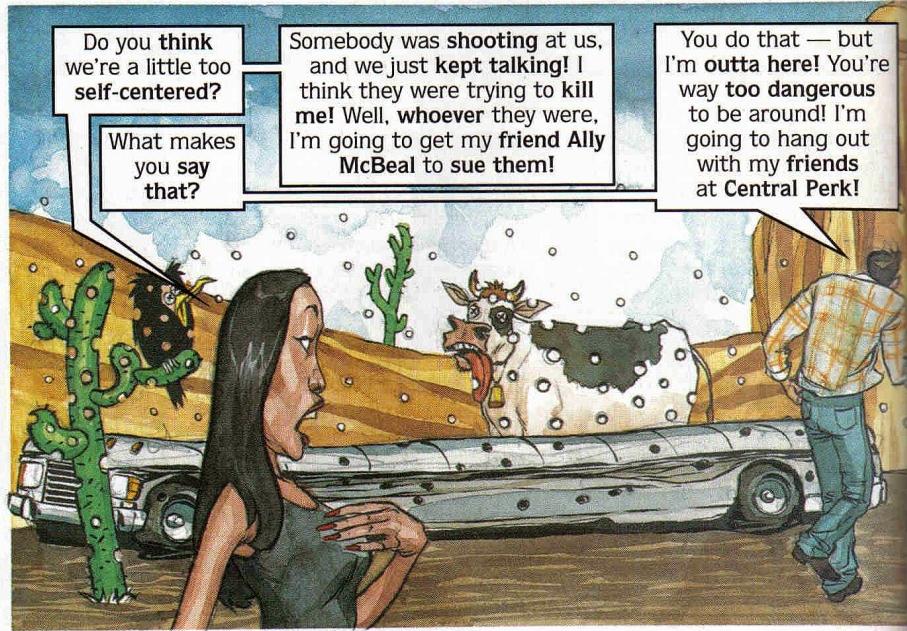
I think she'd say, "This bullet's for you!"

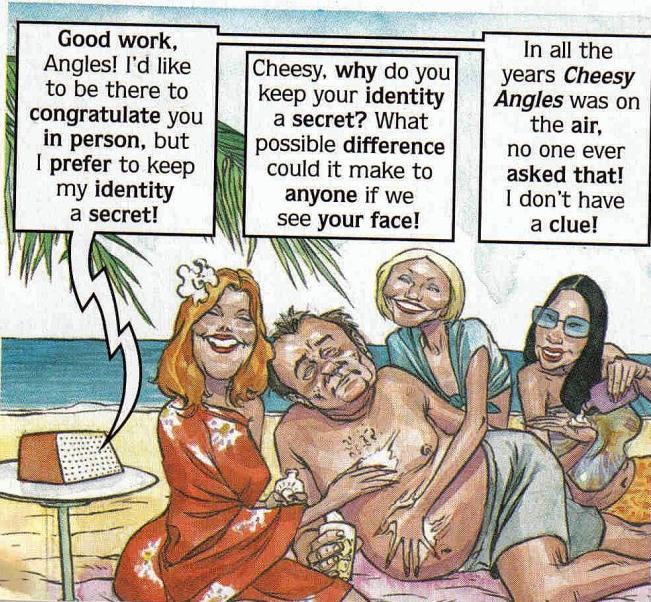
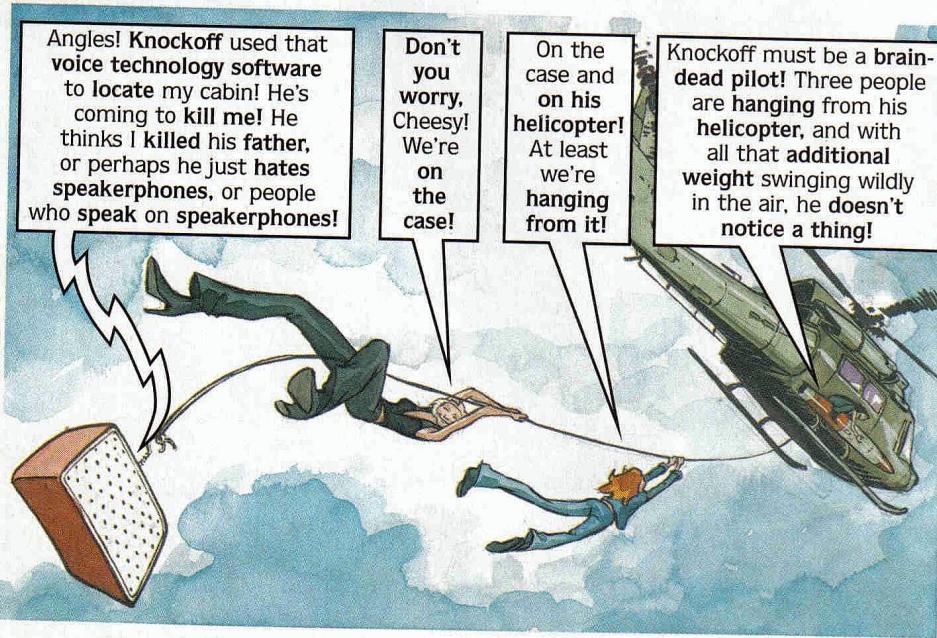
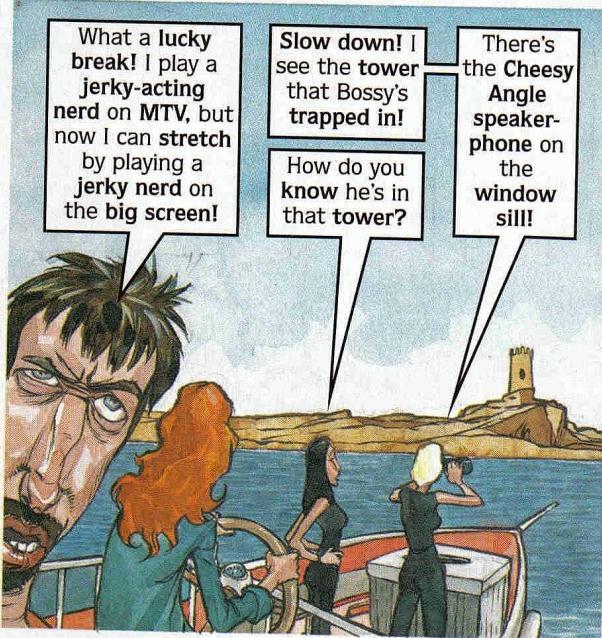
Good thing she's shooting slo-mo bullets! I can make it look like they hit me as I slo-mo dodge them!

Look! A nude girl right at our door!

Damn! Why did it have to be Dilly, the chubby one? The other two are so much hotter!

Are you kidding?! All that baby fat makes her look more like she's our age!





WHAT MAJOR CHALLENGE IS CONFRONTING MANY OF TODAY'S TEENS?

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS
MAD FOLD-IN

Teenagers confront many overwhelming issues. Peer pressure forces them to prove that they are mature and ready to enter adulthood. To find out what major challenge many are confronted with, fold page in as shown.



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT

B

FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



SNIVELING INSECURELY, MANY TEENS DREAM OF BREAKING INTO PLACES WHERE THEY DON'T BELONG. THEY'RE FOREVER TRYING TO BEHAVE AND ACT GROWNUP. RATIONAL THOUGHT IS BEYOND THEM. THEIR ILL-FATED MOVES INTO ADULT WORLDS ARE WORTHLESS ACTIVITIES

A

B

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